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Items for discussion and decision:**environmental-economic accounting****Report of the Committee of Experts on
Environmental-Economic Accounting****Note by the Secretary-General**

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2018/227 and past practices, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting. The report describes the progress made over the past year as well as future activities of the Committee. The discussion is organized according to the five areas of work of the Committee, namely: (a) coordination and promotion; (b) methodological development for normative standards and other research; (c) development of databases; (d) implementation and statistical capacity-building; and (e) formulation of a statistical response on emerging policy issues. The report concludes with points for discussion.

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I. Introduction

1. At its forty-ninth session, held from 6 to 9 March 2018, the Statistical Commission adopted decision 49/110 (see E/2018/24-E/CN.3/2018/37, chap. I, sect. B), in which it:

(a) Expressed its appreciation for the work of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting, as detailed in its report, noted the increased uptake and growing importance of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA),¹ and urged the Committee to scale up its work on the implementation of SEEA;

(b) Requested that the Committee of Experts continue to work on coordinating activities in support of SEEA, making available prominently on its website the super calendar, its work programme and a list of the groups working under the auspices of the Committee and the terms of reference of those groups;

(c) Supported the advancement of the research agenda of the SEEA Central Framework, and requested the Committee to develop compilation material to support implementation in countries and to advance the work on linking SEEA to Tourism Satellite Accounts in support of the measurement of sustainable tourism;

(d) Agreed with the revision process of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, and encouraged countries to contribute financially and in kind to the revision process and to continue to experiment and test ecosystem accounts as input to the revision process;

(e) Stressed the importance of developing global SEEA databases based on existing national or international data sets, whenever possible, reiterated the importance of countries approving the information in the database prior to dissemination, and emphasized the need to strengthen and improve basic statistics in support of SEEA implementation;

(f) Commended the Committee of Experts for its efforts to strengthen capacity-building in countries through increased coordination, e-learning, face-to-face workshops and in-country technical assistance, ensuring that countries' needs are met in an efficient manner, and encouraged the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to expand its support to countries, building upon the successful implementation of the United Nations Development Account project and the experience of the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project,² funded by the European Union;

(g) Noted the clarification provided by the Secretariat with regard to the use of the appropriate energy statistics and balances held in international databases as source data for the compilation of national SEEA energy accounts;

(h) Highlighted that the implementation of SEEA facilitates the breaking up of the silos within the national statistical office and national statistical system, thereby harmonizing concepts, definitions and terminology across the national statistical system;

(i) Noted the strong support for using SEEA in compiling Sustainable Development Goal indicators when relevant, and requested that the Committee of Experts take an active role in the Sustainable Development Goal indicators process in view of the review of the indicators in 2020;

¹ See seea.un.org.

² See <https://seea.un.org/home/Natural%20Capital%20Accounting>.

(j) Took note of the communications strategy, and welcomed the newsletter and the efforts to promote SEEA within the statistical community and to policymakers and other stakeholders;

(k) Requested that oceans statistics be integrated in the work of the revision process of SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, and noted the interest of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in taking the lead in this work;

(l) Welcomed the release of SEEA Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with the Statistics Division, and encouraged its implementation.

2. The work of the Committee is organized according to five broad areas of work, with members of the Bureau leading the related parts of the programme of work, as agreed in the Committee's terms of reference. The areas of work are: area A. Coordination, led by Statistics Canada; area B. Methodological development for normative standards and other research, divided into two sub-areas: area B1. SEEA Central Framework, led by Statistics Netherlands, and area B2. SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, led by Eurostat; area C. Development of databases, led by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); area D. Implementation and statistical capacity-building, led by Statistics South Africa; and area E. Formulation of a statistical response on emerging policy issues, led by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

3. The work of the Committee also includes country implementation of the accounts through projects and programmes on environmental-economic accounting, such as the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project and the World Bank Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services programme.³

4. The present report discusses the progress made during the past year and the medium-term programme of work. Points for discussion are presented in section VII.

II. Area A. Coordination

5. The stakeholders of and relevant parties to SEEA come from a variety of fields, both within and outside of the statistical community. Coordination entails ensuring that the various groups and international agencies active in the field of environmental accounting – including methodological development, technical cooperation and development of training, in-country capacity-building and data collection and compilation – work in a harmonized fashion to avoid overlaps of activities. Furthermore, transparent and open communication ensures that all of the relevant stakeholders are informed and have the chance to bring forth contributions and share opportunities.

6. The SEEA website plays an important role in sharing information and upcoming events and initiatives among stakeholders. The Statistics Division has posted on its own website a calendar of international SEEA-related events. The calendar is designed to raise the profile and awareness of those events and ensure participation in them by Committee members. Committee members have submitted upcoming events to the Division for inclusion in the calendar, which is currently live. In addition, team collaboration webpages have been developed to help the members of the Committee work together more efficiently. Webpages have been developed for each area of the Committee, for the revision of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem

³ See www.wavespartnership.org.

Accounting and for the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project. Under the latter, the Division also plans to develop a document repository on its new website, which will improve upon the old repository by including, in addition to the accounts, items such as policy-related documents and multimedia, and will be easier to navigate.

7. The working group in the area of coordination has focused on developing an online repository of SEEA training materials, which will eventually be hosted on the website. The materials will be directed towards learners looking to know more about SEEA, as well as trainers looking for SEEA materials to use in national or regional workshops or to make presentations as needs arise. Several organizations answered the call by the Statistics Division to submit training materials for the repository (such as PowerPoint presentations, online modules, workbooks, etc.). The working group is currently developing a classification system for the materials to ensure that users can easily find the types of materials they are looking for. It is also developing a streamlined assessment process to ensure that all posted materials are consistent with SEEA concepts and methodologies. A proposed assessment process is currently being piloted.

8. An ongoing portion of the work programme has been strategic intervention to mainstream the use of SEEA for policy processes, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals, climate change and biodiversity. Part of the work for 2019, which will extend into 2020, includes efforts to further integrate SEEA into the Goals process. The use of SEEA was explored in a paper of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators working group on interlinkages of Goals statistics and in a presentation on SEEA, both of which were presented to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group in Stockholm in November 2018. The Committee plans to submit a more detailed, comprehensive document to the Group, which builds on previous papers and efforts, on how SEEA can provide a basis for relevant Goals indicators. That document will be sent to the Group in the course of 2019. Furthermore, the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project includes a workstream to assess the potential of SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting for informing a range of national and international indicator frameworks, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

9. In addition to the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee is also looking at mainstreaming the use of SEEA for biodiversity, with an eye towards the post-2020 biodiversity framework. In November 2018, members of the Committee who are also partners in the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project participated in a side event during the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, co-hosted by the Statistics Division and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre and supported by the European Union, on the use of natural capital accounting and SEEA in support of the post-2020 biodiversity framework. In addition, in December 2018, the Committee submitted a paper to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on how SEEA can be used as a measurement framework for the post-2020 framework.

10. Similarly, the Committee has engaged with the climate change community through the 2019 refinement of the 2006 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories. Several members of the Committee participated in the second-order expert review to provide feedback from the statistical community on how national statistical offices and international statistical standards, including the System of National Accounts (SNA) and SEEA, can contribute to the proposed guidelines. In addition, in its meeting in June 2018, the Committee welcomed the proposal for a dual indicator approach developed by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) task force for a set of core climate change-related statistics based on SEEA, when possible. The Committee reaffirmed its

support of the work of the task force and encouraged the use of SEEA for the core indicators.

III. Area B. Methodological development for normative standards and other research

11. An important component of the work of the Committee is the advancement of the research agenda of the SEEA Central Framework and SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, and the present section describes the progress of methodological development for both. Special attention is paid to SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, which is currently being revised, with finalization expected at the end of 2020. The research agenda of SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting is designed to make progress on a number of issues tied to ecosystem extent, ecosystem condition, ecosystem services and valuation. In addition, special attention is paid to several issues of the research agenda that pertain to the SEEA Central Framework and SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, to ensure full harmonization between the two.

A. Area B1. SEEA Central Framework

12. Topics relating to the SEEA Central Framework research agenda have been prioritized, and a process has been put in place on how to finalize and publish the results of those research issues. In 2018, three outcome papers were finalized for three topics on the SEEA research agenda: (a) an integrated framework for environmental activity accounts; (b) economy-wide material flow accounts and supply and use tables; and (c) global data structure definitions for data exchange for Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange. The papers were approved by the Committee in June 2018 and have been published on the SEEA website.⁴ To ensure that developments in methodology can be executed as expected during compilation, the outcome papers should be considered as recommendations and countries are encouraged to test and experiment with the proposed changes. In addition, with regard to the integrated framework for environmental activity accounts, technical notes for environmental protection expenditure and environmental goods and services sector accounts are currently being developed and take into account the outcome paper, to facilitate testing and experimentation.

13. Furthermore, work was initiated on two more topics: (a) the revision of the classification for environmental activities, including the definition of resource management; and (b) a methodology for fossil fuel subsidies, to be published by UNEP. The London Group on Environmental Accounting discussed those issues at its 24th meeting, held in Dublin in October 2018, and the outcomes of those discussions will be consolidated and published on the SEEA website.

14. With regard to the classification for environmental activities, methodological work is being carried out by Eurostat to clarify borderline cases between environmental protection activities and resource management activities and improve explanatory notes of the current classifications, which are needed for ongoing data collection. That work is expected to pave the way for a methodological analysis

⁴ See https://seea.un.org/sites/seea.un.org/files/seea_paper_integrated_framework_estat_v5.pdf, https://seea.un.org/sites/seea.un.org/files/lg23_mfa_seea-cf-research_agenda_paper_femiapaolantoni_rev_rev_0.pdf and https://seea.un.org/sites/seea.un.org/files/lg23_document_global_dsds_estat.pdf.

needed for future integration of the international Classification of Environmental Protection Activities and resource management activities.

15. UNEP completed a draft global economy-wide material flow accounting manual, which aims to expand upon such manuals produced by Eurostat and OECD to provide compilation guidelines fit for purpose for developed and developing countries. The manual was reviewed by the SEEA Central Framework Technical Committee, which recommended that it be submitted for global consultation at the end of 2018. The results of the global consultation will be presented to the Statistics Division in a background document.

16. International statistical standards are revised on a regular basis to take into account new global developments, new user demands and new statistical insights. The SEEA Central Framework must also be reviewed regularly to assess its relevance to understanding the links between the environment and the economy and to policy and analytical requirements. Statistics Netherlands and the Statistics Division will draft a concept note for the 2019 meeting of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting to examine if there is a need to revise the SEEA Central Framework in the light of the ongoing work on the research agenda and the possible upcoming revision of the 2008 SNA. In addition, the Committee is currently liaising with the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts to identify synergies between the SNA and SEEA research agendas. That dialogue will help to coordinate methodological and implementation work and will inform the analysis of whether a SEEA Central Framework revision is needed.

B. Area B1. SEEA Central Framework: measuring the sustainability of tourism

17. As the Statistical Commission recommended in its decision 48/115 (see E/2017/24-E/CN.3/2017/35, chap. I, sect. C), the Committee has continued to collaborate with the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Committee on Statistics to develop a statistical framework for measuring the sustainability of tourism, including a technical note linking SEEA and Tourism Satellite Account, which is provided as a background document. The Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting endorsed the technical note during its June 2018 meeting, and the note is currently being tested by developed and developing countries. In addition, members of the Committee and the Statistics Division are part of the working group of experts on measuring the sustainability of tourism, which is leading the work in developing the statistical framework.

18. The statistical framework for measuring the sustainability of tourism is being developed under the auspices of UNWTO, the Committee on Statistics and the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting and is expected to be submitted for approval to the Statistics Division in 2020. The working group of experts on measuring the sustainability of tourism is currently drafting chapters of the statistical framework and has developed a road map for finalization of the framework. The road map includes two rounds of global consultations in 2019 to engage and seek views from the statistical community, the tourism community, academia and the private sector. In addition, an editorial board has been established to provide guidance to the UNWTO Committee on Statistics with regards to the development and finalization of the statistical framework. The editorial board is composed of experts in tourism satellite accounts, tourism statistics, national accounts and environmental-economic accounting, including the Statistics Division and members of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting.

C. Area B2. SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting

19. In the past 12 months, there has been significant progress in the revision process for the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting. Under the auspices of the Committee, that work has been coordinated by the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting Technical Committee. Thanks to contributions from Australia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Eurostat, funding for an editor was secured by March 2018. In addition, the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project workstream on methodology has been aligned with the revision process and provides for important resources through joint global activities. A document on the main purposes of ecosystem accounting is provided as a background paper.

20. Work on the primary research areas is in progress, covering spatial units, ecosystem condition, ecosystem services and valuation and accounting treatments. A note finalizing the list of issues for consideration in the revision process was completed in June 2018. Five working groups have been established to advance work across the research areas. The drafting of a range of discussion papers commenced in mid-2018 and will continue to around March 2019.

21. In particular, the practical experience of countries testing the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting has provided valuable input into the revision process. The Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project workstream on piloting ecosystem accounts is providing important substantive inputs into the revision process through the experiences and lessons learned by Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa. The work of the project will also include compilation guidelines and handbooks on biophysical modelling of ecosystem services and valuation of ecosystem services, which will complement the revision with practical, hands-on guidance.

22. As part of the revision process and the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project, several events were held over the past 12 months to bring together relevant stakeholders and organizations that have an interest in the revision and bring valuable expertise to the table. In April 2018, an expert meeting on ecosystem valuation was held, funded and organized by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, in collaboration with the Statistics Division and UNEP. In addition, in June 2018, a forum of experts on ecosystem accounting was held in Long Island, United States of America, by the Division in collaboration with UNEP, the World Bank and the European Union, which brought together more than 100 participants from the environmental accounting, environmental economics, biodiversity, geospatial and statistical communities. The revision was also discussed at the 24th meeting of the London Group on Environmental Accounting, held in Dublin in October 2018. The revision will be the focus of several upcoming events, including two more forums of experts (one in 2019 and one in 2020), as well as expert group meetings and the 25th meeting of the London Group on Environmental Accounting.

23. One area of research that has warranted particular consideration is valuation, given its links to SNA. The starting point for valuation in the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting is the use of exchange values as per SNA, which supports integration with standard economic and financial accounts. There is a wide range of techniques available for valuing ecosystem services and assets, and the research programme includes work with experts in that area to determine how those techniques can be best adapted for use in ecosystem accounting in SEEA. Furthermore, consideration should be given to how the SEEA approach complements other ecosystem valuation approaches. In that context, the Statistics Division and the SEEA

Experimental Ecosystem Technical Committee held a webinar on the current state of play on valuation methods for members of the Committee and the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts.

24. Engagement with different stakeholders, while trying to manage expectations, has been a key component in this phase of the revision process of SEEA. Close engagement with various stakeholders ensures that the revision builds on existing scientific, economic and geospatial knowledge in measuring ecosystem extent, condition and services. In particular, efforts have been made to engage with existing initiatives and partnerships, such as the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the Ecosystem Services Partnership and academia.

D. Area B2 SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting: ocean accounting

25. As a result of the increasing demand for ocean statistics, and as requested by the Commission in its decision 49/110, a workstream on ocean accounts has been developed by ESCAP and UNEP, which have engaged international, regional and national stakeholders in an ocean accounts partnership, launched at the first Asia and the Pacific Expert Workshop on Ocean Accounts, held in Bangkok in August 2018, and highlighted at the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference, held in Nairobi in November 2018. Together, ESCAP and UNEP have further developed the concept of ocean accounts as components of SNA and SEEA, plus other information required to monitor and report on Goal 14 of the Sustainable Development Goals, on life below water, and other ocean-related Goals. That action has resulted in the creation of an informal international coalition working on: (a) refining the concept of ocean accounts; (b) drafting technical recommendations; and (c) conducting national pilot studies to test and implement the concepts. The results of the testing, experimentation and methodological development of ocean accounts will also serve as input in the drafting of the revised SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting conceptual framework.

26. ESCAP has obtained funding from the United Nations Development Account programme to support further methodological development and national pilots to test and implement ocean accounts. As at October 2018, Indonesia, Thailand and Vanuatu have agreed to collaborate on national pilot studies, and pilots will be conducted with at least two other countries. In addition, Canada and South Africa are testing and experimenting with ocean accounts. The results of the methodological development and pilot studies will be documented in a set of technical recommendations before the end of 2019. The technical recommendations will also integrate expertise from relevant communities, including on climate change, disaster risk, biodiversity, economic development and social development. From a methodological viewpoint, it is essential to ensure the work of those communities, as well as those engaged in geospatial data and big data, are aligned with respect to the ocean.

IV. Area C. Development of databases

27. As the Statistical Commission recommended in its decision 47/106 (see E/2016/24-E/CN.3/2016/34, chap. I, sect. B), the Committee is moving forward in the compilation and dissemination of global SEEA-based datasets. The Committee stresses the urgency of developing global databases in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In particular, the Committee has made progress in developing the priority datasets of air emission, energy, economy-wide material flow and land accounts. More work is needed for water accounts, both to facilitate the

compilation of those accounts by countries and to develop estimation techniques. To disseminate current efforts, the Committee has discussed the compilation of existing databases and national data, to be hosted on the Statistics Division's SEEA website.

28. The basic strategy for compiling global SEEA databases is to use nationally available data according to the SEEA Central Framework when they exist and to supplement those data with estimates based on internationally available data sources whenever possible. International organizations have started to develop estimation techniques to populate global SEEA databases in cases where national data are not available. It should be noted, however, that high-quality environmental and economic statistics are needed for those estimation techniques to work well, and estimated SEEA accounts cannot be considered as a substitute for those statistics. As the Commission recommended, the Committee recognizes the need for communication with countries before dissemination and for transparency regarding estimation techniques. Furthermore, estimated data should always be flagged and distinguished and separated from official statistics.

29. At its 13th meeting, held in June 2018, the Committee of Experts endorsed the OECD methodology for estimating SEEA air emission accounts for Annex I States parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, following the advice of the SEEA Central Framework Technical Committee. For Annex I parties that do not yet compile official air emission accounts, the corresponding estimates will be released as OECD estimates. The possibility to estimate air emission accounts for non-Annex I parties is currently being investigated.

30. With respect to energy accounts, the Committee noted the progress made by the Statistics Division for the development of an Excel-based tool to estimate physical supply and use accounts. The tool is currently being tested with pilot countries and will then be reviewed by the SEEA Technical Committee and submitted to the Committee for endorsement. E-learning and workshops are planned for 2019 to assist countries in the development of energy accounts.

31. Furthermore, UNEP and the International Resource Panel have undertaken work to update the global material flow database. The global economy-wide material flow accounting manual will further pave the way for an international dataset on economy-wide material flow accounts aligned with SEEA. It is complemented with work undertaken by OECD, in cooperation with Eurostat and UNEP, to develop a harmonized international measurement method for estimating demand-based material flows (material footprints) and establishing related accounts.

32. The Committee also noted the publication by FAO of land cover accounts with a global coverage. Those accounts are estimated based on satellite images and rely on the SEEA land cover classification. The SEEA Central Framework Technical Committee will review the underlying methodology.

33. In order to facilitate data transmission, a technical group with representatives from international organizations (Eurostat, FAO, OECD, UNEP and the Statistics Division) has developed Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange definitions for data structure, and the accompanying documentation for the following SEEA accounts: air emissions, energy, material flows, land and water. Those definitions underwent a global public review from May to June 2018. At the time of drafting the present report, a second pilot phase was under way, with the objective of finalizing the definitions in February 2019. Publication of the final package for all SEEA data structure definitions together with the 2019 annual release of the macroeconomic statistics data structure definitions is planned for April or May 2019.

34. To ensure that progress is also made on the priority database of water, OECD, in collaboration with the Statistics Division, UNEP and Eurostat, will prepare a

scoping and discussion paper on the linkages between SEEA accounts and the water-related indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals for the 2019 meeting of the Committee. The custodian agencies for water-related indicators of the Goals will be consulted beforehand to ensure that the water accounts can feed into Goals-related monitoring processes.

35. At its next meeting, the Committee will discuss a road map for how to disseminate existing SEEA databases (from Eurostat and OECD), official national SEEA statistics and, eventually, estimated SEEA accounts through the SEEA website. That road map will include a process for communicating with countries before disseminating official statistics and national estimates as well as communicating estimation techniques and estimated data.

36. The Committee is also collaborating with the Global Working Group on Big Data to explore the possibility of developing global databases on ecosystem extent. In particular, that work will support SEEA-relevant Sustainable Development Goals indicators under Goal 6, on clean water and sanitation, and Goal 15, on life on land.

V. Area D. Implementation and statistical capacity-building

37. The Statistics Division has built and maintained an up-to-date database on countries implementing SEEA accounts. According to information from regional commissions, international organizations and countries, more than 80 countries have compiled SEEA Central Framework accounts and more than 30 countries have compiled SEEA Experimental Ecosystem accounts. However, in order to reach the implementation targets of having at least 100 countries with SEEA Central Framework programmes and at least 50 countries with SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting programmes by 2020, as set out in decision 47/106 (see E/2016/24-E/CN.3/2016/34, chap. I, sect. B), more work needs to be done in terms of statistical capacity-building. In that context, Statistics South Africa conducted additional analysis using the results of the 2017 Global Assessment and the Statistics Division's database and presented it to the Committee in June 2018. The analysis looked at gaps in the compilation of the accounts across countries and indicated that water and energy were the most popular modules being planned for compilation, particularly for developing countries. The analysis also included maps that showed which countries were planning the compilation of certain accounts and which countries had already compiled those accounts, in order to foster regional collaboration and cooperation.

38. The 2017 Global Assessment also identified inadequate funding as a main impeding factor in implementing the accounts. However, a new opportunity for funding SEEA accounts comes from the Global Environmental Facility, the world's largest single source of environmental finance. The Facility was established to support countries tackle environmental problems and includes natural capital and environmental accounting as one of its priorities in its latest round of investments, known as Global Environmental Facility 7. This represents a significant opportunity to increase the development and implementation of SEEA accounts worldwide and reach the implementation targets.

39. Statistics South Africa will draft a proposed road map for the revision and administration of the 2020 Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics, to be presented at the June 2019 meeting of the Committee. The revised Assessment will be presented to the Committee in 2020 and administered before the end of 2020. The results of the Assessment will then be presented to the Commission in 2021.

40. Several initiatives of regional commissions and international agencies have been carried out over the past year, during which many activities been the product of collaboration among multiple agencies and regional commissions and were funded by the tenth tranche of the United Nations Development Account programme. Several initiatives and events for the upcoming year will continue to support SEEA Central Framework and SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting implementation in countries. For instance, the next OECD-ECE seminar on the implementation of SEEA, to be held in Geneva in February 2019, will aim to identify countries' priorities, needs and progress in the context of implementation. The international coordination survey provides further details of the activities of OECD and ECE on SEEA, and is provided as a background document.

41. The World Bank Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services programme, which is also focused on building capacity for the development of SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, currently includes the provision of training, workshops and support for institutionalizing SEEA in Botswana, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Indonesia, Madagascar, the Philippines, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia. The programme also funds projects implementing local ecosystem accounts in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam.

42. The Statistics Division and regional commissions have continued to form partnerships to deliver blended learning initiatives, which have seen broad participation from national statistical offices and line ministries alike. In the first half of 2018, the Statistics Division collaborated with ECE and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to administer online courses on the SEEA Central Framework as well as in-person workshops in Minsk and Amman, respectively.

43. In the second half of 2018, the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting course was translated into Spanish, for use in a blended learning initiative under the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project. As part of that initiative, an in-person workshop was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in November 2018, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

44. The Statistics Division also finalized and made available e-learning courses in water and energy in 2018. The current suite of available e-learning courses, which is freely available as self-paced learning modules, includes:⁵

- (a) An introduction to the SEEA Central Framework (available in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish);
- (b) An introduction to SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (available in English and Spanish);
- (c) In-depth training on SEEA-Energy Accounting (available in English);
- (d) In-depth training on SEEA-Water Accounting (available in English);

In addition, the SEEA-Energy e-learning course is currently being translated into Russian, to be used in a blended learning initiative in the first half of 2019.

VI. Area E. Formulation of a statistical response on emerging policy issues

45. At its forty-eighth session, the Statistical Commission encouraged the Committee to develop materials in support of the promotion of SEEA, particularly

⁵ E-Learning on the SEEA is available at <https://elearning-cms.unstats.un.org/>.

material highlighting its usefulness for policy formulation and evaluation. While SEEA is a statistical framework, it supports analytical and policy frameworks in support of integrated policy decision-making. Highlighting the policy applications of SEEA is key to ensuring that SEEA accounts are used for integrated policymaking and that SEEA remains a demand-driven statistical framework.

A. Communications tools

46. The Committee's website has been its main vehicle to reach stakeholders, civil service and the general public. Through the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project, the website has been consistently expanded and updated to include the latest updates and news on SEEA implementation, country case studies, methodological updates and policy applications. To further facilitate ease of use, the Statistics Division will adjust the organization of the site, making it easier for new and experienced users to find what they are looking for.

47. To support uptake and policy applications of SEEA, the "News & Notes" quarterly newsletter is sent to Committee members, SEEA contacts and other subscribers. In order to appeal to multiple audiences, the newsletter reports on a variety of topics, including SEEA implementation in developed and developing countries, updates on the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project, case studies of successful SEEA implementation, methodological updates and links to policy. In addition, each quarter, members of the Committee inform the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Statistics Division of upcoming events and recent publications for inclusion in the newsletter. To broaden the audience base and attract new readers, the newsletter has been mentioned and promoted in the newsletters of non-governmental organizations active in natural capital accounting. The Statistics Division will continue to look for opportunities to cross-promote the newsletter, in order to engage with the broad base of SEEA stakeholders.

48. The Committee has also focused on using social media to inform stakeholders of SEEA activities, developments and key milestones. At its June 2018 management meeting, the Committee included a hands-on session on the use of Twitter and focused on crafting targeted messaging to stakeholders. The Committee has used Twitter to inform its members, as well as external stakeholders, of recent accomplishments and topical applications of SEEA.

B. Addressing emerging policy issues

49. In its effort to develop materials in support of the policy applications of SEEA, the Statistics Division has begun to work on a series of policy issues papers, with funding from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH. The papers will be designed to appeal to policymakers and analysts and will explore how SEEA can be used as an analytical framework to address specific policy questions. An overview document will accompany the specific issues papers, and the drafting process will be overseen by an editorial board, which will include of members of the Committee, among others. Taken together, the documents will serve as a fourth publication, complementing SEEA Central Framework, SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting and SEEA Applications and Extensions. Furthermore, to promote engagement with line ministries, policy analysts and policymakers, the issues papers will serve as the basis for the development of e-learning modules on the policy applications of SEEA.

50. As an intergovernmental body, the Committee has an important role to play in ensuring that statistical advances are taken into consideration in the monitoring

processes of various policy frameworks. The third Forum on Natural Capital Accounting for Better Policy, held in Paris in November 2018, focused on how natural capital accounting can be applied to policies in support of biodiversity and climate change. The Forum, organized by the World Bank Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services programme, the Statistics Division, the Government of the Netherlands and the Natural Capital Coalition, brought together national statistical offices, line ministries, business and other sectors to discuss how natural capital accounting and SEEA, as an integrated framework, can be applied to measure progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the post-2020 biodiversity framework, the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. Participants also discussed a strategy to ensure that natural capital accounting is mainstreamed into global agendas, in particular for the post-2020 biodiversity framework and the 2020 review of the Paris Agreement.

VII. Points for discussion

51. The Statistical Commission is invited to express its views on:

- (a) The proposed activities to enhance coordination and prevent overlaps in the development of methodologies and capacity-building on SEEA and supporting statistics (see sect. II);
- (b) The proposed activities and process for promoting SEEA for the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, where appropriate (see sect. II);
- (c) The activities taken to mainstream SEEA in the areas of climate change and biodiversity (see sect. II);
- (d) The proposed process to understand the need for a revision of the SEEA Central Framework (see sect. III);
- (e) The finalization and adoption of the global economy-wide material flow accounting manual, to be used as compilation guidelines to guide countries in developing economy-wide material flow accounts (see sect. III);
- (f) The progress made on the statistical framework on measuring the sustainability of tourism and the proposed process to advance the development of the framework (see sect. III);
- (g) The revision process of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (see sect. III);
- (h) The process for moving towards global databases, including the dissemination of existing datasets using the Statistics Division's SEEA website as a platform (see sect. IV);
- (i) The strategy towards the 2020 implementation targets, focused on e-learning, face-to-face hands-on workshops and country technical support (see sect. V);
- (j) The proposed activities for communicating SEEA and addressing emerging policy issues (see sect. VI).

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Items for discussion and decision: disaster-related statistics**Disaster-related statistics****Report of the Secretary-General*****Summary*

The present report, which was prepared by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, in its capacity as secretariat of the Statistical Commission, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, and in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2018/227 and past practices, contains a discussion of disaster-related statistics and highlights the growing relevance and greater focus of statistics relating to both hazardous events and disasters, given the importance of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. The report includes a discussion of an increased focus and illustrates the need to develop a common position on this important and emerging field of statistics. It elaborates on the growing data demands and needs for disaster-related statistics, and the report takes stock of the current situation of activities around the world, with an emphasis on the constraints that developing countries face. The report contains a summary of the work of the main international and regional organizations that are active in statistics relating to hazardous events and disasters and demonstrates that there is already considerable complementarity, coordination and cooperation taking place on this topic under the purview of the Statistical Commission. In this regard, ways to continue to build and strengthen a common statistical framework and a network of experts among the multiple disciplines and areas of expertise involved are also explored in the report. The Statistical Commission is invited to express its views on the report and discuss the way forward.

* E/CN.3/2019/1.

** Prepared jointly with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.



I. Introduction

1. Disasters disrupt national economies and affect lives, with significant direct and indirect effects on and costs to people, communities and countries. They remain one of the most important global development challenges facing humanity. Member States have the primary responsibility to protect their citizens, communities and cities from the social, economic and environmental impact of disasters.

2. It is accepted that extreme weather, earthquakes, tsunamis and other hazardous events will always occur. These events, however, can quickly elevate to become a disaster when a community or society is unable to cope with their impact and consequences. Societal functioning is seriously disrupted, leading to human, material, economic and environmental losses. It is therefore important to focus on reducing and managing the risks, ensuring that a hazardous event does not become a disaster.¹ How well the impact of a disaster is absorbed by communities and countries depends on the intensity of the event, its impact and severity over time and the level of preparedness and resilience of the affected communities and region.

3. While many disasters often occur with little or no warning, their impact is immediate, cross-cutting, complex, often dynamic, non-selective and, in our present world, more frequent and intense. Disasters can emanate from naturally occurring physical phenomena, primarily geophysical or meteorological, or can have anthropogenic or man-made causes, including industrial explosions, terrorism, oil spills and biological and humanitarian crises.

4. Sudden, or rapid onset, events, such as extreme weather, earthquakes, flooding and wildfires, tend to be more localized but are destructive for people, buildings and infrastructure. They can very quickly overwhelm preparedness, resilience and social well-being within and beyond the affected communities. Slower onset disasters, such as sea level rise, increasing temperatures, forest degradation, biodiversity loss and desertification, often span wide geographic areas and long time periods. They are therefore difficult to measure, quantify and adapt to. The impact of disasters, in particular those relating to extreme weather events, are also a growing concern owing to the compounding effects of climate change.

5. Because of their immediate destructive nature and the commensurate dependency on adequate community preparedness and resilience, disasters can quickly erode hard-won progress in developing countries, where resilience, resources and available capital are much lower. Developed countries are better prepared to handle the impact of disasters and their aftermath. In developing nations, where communities are much less prepared, disasters continue to disproportionately affect the poorest people because they do not have the resources to rebuild their homes and meet other basic needs, making them less able to recover in the medium to long term. Specific factors present in more vulnerable environments will therefore often quickly transform a hazardous event into a disaster.

6. Led by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, which the General Assembly adopted on 3 June 2015,² all the global development agendas (e.g., the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on climate change, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the New

¹ A hazard is the process, phenomenon or human activity that may potentially cause loss of life, injury or other health impact, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation. Disaster is a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale due to hazardous events interacting with conditions of exposure and vulnerability, leading to human, material, economic and environmental losses and impacts. See www.unisdr.org/we/inform/terminology.

² See resolution 69/283.

Urban Agenda) place an emphasis on the social, economic and environmental impact of disasters and their negative effects on people, economies and countries, in particular developing countries and vulnerable sectors of society. The Sendai Framework provides mechanisms for countries to address disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience to disasters with a renewed sense of urgency in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and to integrate, as appropriate, both disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience into national, regional and local policies, plans and programmes. The 2030 Agenda contains specific calls for all countries to substantially increase their ability to adopt and implement integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework, holistic disaster risk reduction and management at all levels.

7. As one of its fundamental principles, the statistical community is obliged to provide relevant data concerning the economic, demographic, social and environmental situations of their countries to honour citizens' entitlement to public information. To meet this obligation, official statistics need to be used to explore the use of new data sources and technologies to fulfil the expectation of society for enhanced products and more efficient ways of working. This obligation has become more apparent in the context of the 2030 Agenda, in which the statistical community was explicitly requested to meet the new data demands for monitoring and reporting on progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, their targets and subsequent global indicators.

8. Improved understanding of disaster risk reduction, including strengthening resilience and preparedness and the need for better data and statistical measurement to understand and assess current and future risks, is now required. In the past, disaster data needs tended to be addressed on an ad hoc basis, which included collecting the information at the time of an emergency, that is, in the response and recovery phases. There is nevertheless a growing importance and understanding that a holistic approach to hazardous event and disaster data collection, analysis and management can assist in achieving both short-term and long-term development goals and in identifying and reducing disaster risks. Disaster risk reduction requires informed decision-making, community engagement and partnerships and the open exchange and dissemination of disaggregated data, including by sex, age and disability. Such data can record the impact, effects and recovery of people, communities and their assets in multiple dimensions.

9. At its forty-ninth session, the Statistical Commission, in its decision 49/113, welcomed a greater focus on disaster-related statistics, given the importance of the Sendai Framework, and decided to include in the agenda for its fiftieth session a separate item on this topic, building on existing work in this emerging area. The present report contains a discussion of an increased focus on disaster-related statistics, including statistics relating to hazardous events and disasters; elaborates on the growing data demands and needs; and takes stock of the current situation of activities around the world, with an emphasis on the constraints that developing countries face. The report provides a summary of the work of the main international and regional organizations that are active in this emerging area of statistics and demonstrates that there is already considerable complementarity, coordination and cooperation taking place on this topic under the purview of the Commission. In this regard, ways to continue to build and strengthen a common statistical framework and a network of experts among the multiple disciplines and areas of expertise involved are also explored in the report. The Commission is invited to express its views on the report and discuss the way forward.

II. Demand for disaster-related statistics

10. Since 2005, and within the construct of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, there has been an international consensus on the need to “develop systems of indicators of disaster risk and vulnerability at national and sub-national levels that will enable decision-makers to assess the impact of disasters on social, economic and environmental conditions and disseminate the results to decision-makers, the public and population at risk” (A/CONF.206/6, chap. I, resolution 2). The demand for internationally comparable methods for producing statistical evidence for disaster risk reduction received renewed and enhanced attention internationally in 2015 with the adoption by the General Assembly of the Sendai Framework and with similar prominent inclusion of disaster risk reduction targets in the Sustainable Development Goals, targets and indicators of the 2030 Agenda.

11. The Sendai Framework has shifted the earlier focus on reducing vulnerability towards risk reduction and assessment, mirroring government demands for improving prevention and preparedness efforts. The goal of the Sendai Framework is to “prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and thus strengthen resilience”.³ Implementing these measures requires information beyond operational disaster data. There is also a need for disaster measurements and statistics across disasters, time and geographical locations and for the integration of disaster information with social, economic and environment statistics.

12. In the context of the globally agreed development policy frameworks and a global indicator monitoring system, governments have placed increased attention on the development of disaster-related statistics. This includes, but is not limited to, statistics on hazardous events, disaster occurrences and their impact, risk assessment, management and reduction, and post-disaster impact assessments, which rely on analyses of a variety of sources of data on the population, society and the economy. The sources of these data include censuses, surveys, administrative registers and other instruments used in official statistics for multiple purposes. Geo-referenced statistics and other location information on population, businesses and infrastructure also support the assessment of the number of affected people and any other possible impact in cases of emergency response and recovery.

13. Each disaster not only is highly unpredictable in its occurrence and impact, but also creates significant changes and challenges to the social, economic and environmental context for affected regions. In addition, disasters and their associated risk is unevenly dispersed in and among countries and over time. To identify authentic trends, rather than random fluctuations or effects of extreme values, much of the analyses of statistics relating to hazardous events and disasters requires a coherent time series and depends on clear and well-structured statistical compilations. This context places an exceptionally high value on the harmonizing of measurement for related statistics over time and, as much as feasible, among countries and regions.

14. The collections of these statistics needs to be structured and documented in such a way as to maintain the links to relevant characteristics of the underlying disaster occurrence (e.g., timing, location and hazard type), while also remaining accessible to users as inputs for cross-disaster analyses (e.g., monitoring indicators over time or

³ General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II, para. 17.

in models for predicting and minimizing disaster risk). A basic challenge in disaster-related statistics is therefore to make statistics accessible for use in multiple forms and purposes of analyses, while maintaining harmonized and coherent compilations through the structured use of metadata.

15. Given that this area of statistics is a new endeavour in nearly all countries, there is a strong demand for technical guidance and the sharing of tools and good practices internationally. This includes translating the agreed concepts and definitions into specific instructions and technical recommendations for the production and dissemination of statistics. At present, countries have different practices for compiling data and prioritizing and preparing statistical tables relating to disasters that make it difficult to make comparisons or conduct time series analyses covering multiple disasters. More attention needs to be given to harmonizing the use of terminologies and the development of more "geospatially relevant" statistics and indicators to produce more quantitative and integrated evidence at the national level. In many cases, these data are produced outside the national statistical system, and national statistical offices are often not involved in compiling the data.

16. Geospatial information has been widely recognized as an important aspect of disaster risk reduction and management. At the time of a crisis, communication, coordination and collaboration among all stakeholders is vital at all levels of decision-making throughout the emergency cycle. Knowing where to respond, what with, how and in a timely manner is critical. Large-scale disasters, however, continue to have a devastating impact on people, buildings and infrastructure, demonstrating the gap that remains between the state of geospatial information technologies, Earth observation data and statistics and informed decision-making. This situation highlights the need to find solutions aimed at improving not only the availability and accessibility of quality and relevant information, but also the coordination and communication among stakeholders at all levels of decision-making throughout the phases of disaster risk management.

III. Ongoing work in disaster-related statistics

17. While the topic of disaster-related statistics is relatively new for the Statistical Commission, the statistical community, in close collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and other international organizations, has made significant progress in guiding the work and coherence of national statistical offices towards the implementation of statistics for disaster risk management, reduction, monitoring and reporting. These efforts have had the added benefit of realizing greater harmonization of statistics between and among Member States and international organizations.

18. Key outcomes of that work include a disaster-related statistical framework defining the scope and providing a basic range for these statistics; defining the role of national statistical offices in producing these statistics and providing recommendations for implementation; providing the link with environment statistics, as captured in the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics⁴ and the work on System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Experimental Ecosystem Accounts; consideration of the strengths of official statistics and the importance of using official statistics in disaster risk monitoring and management; and having national statistical offices be involved in developing technical guidelines relating to the monitoring of the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

⁴ *Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES 2013)* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 14.XVII.9).

19. The following section provides an overview of the ongoing work in statistics relating to hazardous events and disasters of the main international and regional organizations active in this area.

A. Statistical work on disasters in the Statistics Division

20. In the area of environment statistics, the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat produced the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics, with the support of the Expert Group on the Revision of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics.⁵ The Statistical Commission, at its forty-fourth session, endorsed the Framework as the basis for strengthening environment statistics programmes in countries. It is a flexible, multi-purpose conceptual and statistical framework that is comprehensive and integrative in nature. It organizes environment statistics into six components, and each one is broken down into subcomponents and statistical topics. One of the six components, component 4 on extreme events and disasters, organizes statistics on the occurrence of extreme events and disasters and their impact on human well-being and the infrastructure of the human subsystem. In component 6, on environmental protection, management and engagement, one of the subcomponents focuses on the preparedness and management of disasters.

21. The Statistics Division is also developing a manual on the basic set of environment statistics, in collaboration with the Expert Group on Environment Statistics, in which, among other things, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) contribute actively. The objective of the manual is to produce and disseminate a set of methodology sheets, or metadata, for the collection or compilation of all environment statistics of the Basic Set of Environment Statistics contained in the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics. Several methodology sheets have been completed; the one on disasters is being finalized.

22. With regard to climate change statistics, the Statistical Commission, at its forty-seventh session, noted the link between climate change and disaster reduction and requested that the Sendai Framework be considered in the development of climate change statistics and indicators. As part of the work of the Division to develop a global set of climate change statistics and indicators, as requested by the Commission, the close link between climate change statistics and disaster-related statistics is strongly being taken into account.

23. With regard to the geospatial information requirements to support statistics relating to hazardous events and disasters, the Division is secretariat for the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management. To institutionalize the integration of geospatial information and its services into emergency response and disaster risk reduction, the Committee of Experts developed the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters⁶ to serve as a guide for Member States in their national activities to ensure the availability and accessibility of quality geospatial information and services in all phases of the emergency cycle and to reach out and engage with decision-makers. The Strategic Framework was adopted by the Committee of Experts in 2017 and subsequently endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in July 2018.

24. It is recommended in the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters that geospatial databases and information products be

⁵ See https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/fdes/fdes_cgm.eshtml.

⁶ See Economic and Social Council resolution 2018/14.

developed, maintained and updated on the basis of common standards, protocols and processes as important tools in every decision-making process in all phases of disaster risk management. In addition, it is stipulated, among other things, that each Member State shall be in the position to generate, maintain and provide quality geospatial information and services in all phases of disaster risk management, that geospatial data and information shall be openly accessible to the disaster risk management community, as appropriate, and that the implementation of the Strategic Framework shall encourage data-sharing, interoperability and harmonization among neighbouring countries in order to respond efficiently to cross-border disasters.

B. Statistical work at the Economic Commission for Europe relating to hazardous events and disasters

25. The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians set up a task force on measuring extreme events and disasters in February 2015⁷ as a follow-up to an in-depth review conducted in October 2014. The main objective of the task force is to clarify the role of official statistics in providing data relating to hazardous events and disasters and to identify practical steps for national statistical offices, in coordination with national agencies responsible for disaster management, to support disaster management and risk reduction.

26. From the beginning, the task force has cooperated closely with the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

27. The task force provided substantive contributions to the work of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction. The working group agreed on the set of indicators to measure global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the related terminology, which provides an important basis for recommendations to be given to national statistical offices. On the suggestion of the task force, the working group included in its report to the General Assembly the recommendation to involve the statistical community in the follow-up work to operationalize the indicators of the Sendai Framework.

28. The task force initiated several national case studies on data relating to hazardous events and disasters (from Armenia, Brazil, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, the Philippines and Turkey). The case studies illustrate the roles that national statistical offices can play in disaster risk management, which statistics on hazardous events and disasters are produced and disseminated regularly and how new data sources (e.g., geospatial information) can help to produce these statistics and make them fit for purpose. Some of the case studies also contain discussions of the regulations that give national statistical systems the mandate to produce these statistics and to provide data quickly for the affected area in cases of emergency.

29. It is planned that the final report of the task force, with recommendations to national statistical offices, will be submitted to the 2019 Conference of European Statisticians plenary session for endorsement. The report includes recommendations

⁷ Members of the task force are Armenia, Italy (Chair), Mexico, New Zealand, the Republic of Moldova, South Africa and Turkey, as well as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Joint Research Centre, the European Space Agency, Eurostat, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and its Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the World Health Organization and the World Meteorological Organization. The Group on Earth Observations participates in the work of the task force.

for a set of core roles and tasks for national statistical offices relating to statistics on hazardous events and disasters, taking into account typical strengths of official statistics and the diverse institutional settings in countries. Furthermore, the report includes a list of practical steps to build capacity for these statistics in national statistical systems.

C. Statistical work on disasters at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

30. In May 2014, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) established the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, and a network of expertise was assembled from national statistical offices and national disaster management agencies from the Asia-Pacific region, as well as from many relevant international agencies that participated from regional and global perspectives. During the next four years, the Expert Group collected, reviewed and discussed current practices in countries and the statistical requirements from users, including for global monitoring of the Sendai Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals, among other policy-relevant purposes at national and local levels. The Expert Group has conducted five in-person meetings, collected feedback at several related seminars and side events and conducted three rounds of open online consultations towards the development of statistical recommendations aimed at improving the quality, including the international comparability, of disaster-related statistics from official sources.

31. Although it is a regional network of experts with a regional mandate, one of the core principles of the Expert Group's method of work is to coordinate closely and ensure alignment with related initiatives in other regions and at a global level. This includes, in particular, coordination with the ECE task force on measuring extreme events and disasters and collaborating closely with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and other stakeholders to ensure full alignment with the concepts, terminologies and priorities of the Sendai Framework. The engagement of a broad range of experts from stakeholder agencies, groups and related initiatives in the disaster management or official statistics domains helped to assure the quality of guidance in those statistical frameworks and ensure that the recommendations built, as much as possible, on existing statistical standards and on the internationally agreed concepts and indicators for disaster risk reduction.

32. A main output of the Expert Group is a disaster-related statistics framework, a technical guideline that is designed for national statistical systems and applicable at multiple scales. The statistical content of the framework was endorsed by the ESCAP Committee on Statistics (May 2018). The framework's guidelines have global relevance and are universally applicable as a tool to help responsible agencies to build their capacities for producing internationally harmonized disaster-related statistics. The framework was developed through a multi-stakeholder and transparent process of consultation with a broad range of experts, including international agencies, related groups (e.g., the ECE task force on measuring extreme events and disasters and the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications). The purpose of this technical guidance is to help to encourage the development of a common and nationally standardized basic range of disaster-related statistics, which is comparable to those of other countries.

33. The disaster-related statistics framework is currently being applied towards the design of technical assistance for the development of case studies and statistical training materials in countries in the Asia-Pacific region. It is expected that the framework could also be a good base model to serve similar purposes in other regions,

subject to further review and endorsement by the Statistical Commission. The global review and endorsement of the framework is a recommended step towards greater harmonization and enhanced involvement of stakeholder institutions throughout the region for developing official statistics for use in disaster risk reduction policies.

D. Statistical work on disasters at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

34. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has contributed to providing technical assistance in and training countries on the field of disaster statistics and indicators for a long time, given that the region is particularly concerned both by the effects of climate change and by the occurrence and impact of increasingly frequent and more intense extreme events and disasters, as shown in the ECLAC Statistical Yearbook, the CEPALSTAT database and various analytical publications. The capacity-building activities have been incorporated into the ECLAC environment statistics work programme in collaboration with other regional commissions and the Division (i.e., within the Expert Group on Environment Statistics). Since 2016, the Statistics Division of ECLAC has reinforced its services to countries in this field and is actively seeking partnerships at the global and regional levels in order to carry out a regional programme of climate change and disaster statistics and indicators. The need for technical assistance missions and training is continually growing in Latin American and Caribbean countries, in particular in small island developing States and Central American countries.

35. The ECLAC Statistical Conference of the Americas established a working group⁸ at its ninth session, in November 2017 in Aguascalientes, Mexico. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, through its Regional Office for the Americas, contributes as the technical secretariat, with support from the Statistics Division of ECLAC. The main objective is to integrate data and produce statistics and indicators reporting on the occurrence, impact and risk reduction of disasters into national statistical systems, thus enhancing the comparability, accuracy consistency and high quality of disaster statistics and indicators, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. The working group is building on the valuable work undertaken by the task force on measuring extreme events and disasters and the Asia-Pacific Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, considering the specific characteristics of Latin America and the Caribbean in terms of environmental resources, human exposure, extreme events and disaster occurrence, impact and preparedness.

36. ECLAC is statistically supporting the regional working group carrying out work to identify national stakeholders, followed by a thorough data availability assessment on the Sendai Framework and the Sustainable Development Goal disaster indicators at the national level, beginning with the working group members. In June 2018, the working group organized its first face-to-face meeting following the sixth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, held in Cartagena, Colombia, which was attended by eight national statistical offices in Latin America for the first time. In November 2018, a joint ECLAC-United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction specific assessment and technical assistance mission on disaster statistics was carried out in the Dominican Republic as a pilot country, allowing for an inter-institutional assessment describing data series, statistics and indicators that are available and those that are needed to report on nationally prioritized policies and

⁸ Members of the working group are Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Peru, the latter two of which are the coordinating countries.

targets, as well as Sustainable Development Goal and Sendai Framework reporting needs. In addition, the working group also met face-to-face in Panama City in December 2018 to follow up on its work programme and to discuss activities planned for 2019.

E. Statistical work on disasters at the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

37. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction has a mandate to support Member States in the implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework.

38. An open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction was set up in accordance with the recommendation contained in the Sendai Framework. The General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the working group in February 2017. Moreover, given that the Sustainable Development Goals include indicators that are related to disaster risk reduction under Goals 1, 11 and 13, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Goal Indicators recognized the working group's recommendations as common indicators for the same and identified the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction as the custodian agency of the related indicators. This was also endorsed by the Statistical Commission at its forty-eighth session, in March 2017.

39. Based on the above, to further the monitoring of the Sendai Framework, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction was tasked with developing an online Sendai Framework monitor that would be the mechanism for all Member States to report on their progress. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction therefore undertook a comprehensive process that included the following key steps:

(a) A comprehensive survey was conducted among Member States (i.e., a Sendai Framework data readiness review) that enabled them to undertake a self-assessment of their abilities to be able to report against each of the 38 global indicators of the seven global targets of the Sendai Framework;

(b) A prototype of the online Sendai Framework monitor was produced on the basis of a consultation with Member States and other partners. The actual monitor was developed on the basis of that prototype, in partnership with the Office of Information and Communications Technology enterprise application centre based in Bangkok;

(c) Technical guidance notes were developed and made available in January 2018 as the main guiding tool for assisting Member States in the compilation of data for including in the monitor. In the development of the notes, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction worked closely with the Division and statistical offices of the regional commissions, in particular ECE and ESCAP, to support standards-setting relating to disaster statistics. National statistical offices also contributed to the development of the technical guidance;

(d) The Sendai Framework monitor was launched on 1 March 2018. Information reported in the monitor has already been provided to the report on the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development. For this, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction has been working very closely with the Goals monitoring unit of the Division in support of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Goal Indicators. As a result, all the Sendai Framework-related indicators have been classified as tier I or tier II in the Goal classification. A second reporting deadline was set for October 2018, and the data provided by Member States will form the basis of the 2019 Global Assessment

Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be launched at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in May 2019;

(e) In order to support Member States in reporting through the online Sendai Framework monitor, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction has been undertaking a comprehensive capacity development exercise in all the regions through the leadership of its regional offices. The primary target audiences of the regional, subregional and national-level training have been the national disaster management organizations, the national statistical offices, appropriate sectoral ministries responsible for data-sharing and other stakeholders, as appropriate;

(f) In addition to the reporting for the global targets and indicators mentioned above, in accordance with the recommendation of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology, a second phase of the monitor has also been implemented in which Member States have an opportunity to develop their own nationally determined custom targets and indicators to support the monitoring of their national strategies for disaster risk reduction and produce national reports, as required. Moreover, the Sendai Framework monitor will also allow regional intergovernmental organizations to monitor and report on progress in implementation in their regions.

Disaster loss accounting

40. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction has been working with Member States for more than one decade to promote disaster loss accounting. To date, information on disaster loss accounting is available for more than 100 countries. In particular, the Office assists Member States in recording and analysing disaster trends and their impact in a systematic way through an open source disaster inventory system called DesInventar. With the adoption of the 38 indicators to measure the progress against the achievement of the seven targets of the Sendai Framework, the Office retrofitted DesInventar and relaunched it at the beginning of 2018. This system is a methodology and software that enables the collection of detailed and homogeneous loss and damage data about disasters at all scales (temporal and spatial) and allows the capture of disaster information that is location-stamped and time-stamped, also enabling the analysis of disaster loss and damage through charts, graphs and reports. The tool helps countries to understand disaster trends, patterns and impact in a systematic way and facilitates dialogue and policy discussions on disaster risk reduction.

Global Risk Assessment Framework

41. In 2018, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction convened an expert meeting on the Global Risk Assessment Framework, bringing together 10 eminent experts in hazard and risk modelling from all regions of the world to examine existing risk models in public and private domains and identify gaps and opportunities for enhanced collaboration towards a global assessment of risk within the broader scope of the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda. As recommended at the expert meeting, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction initiated the development of the Global Risk Assessment Framework to provide risk information across the full spectrum of hazards and risks covered under the Sendai Framework, with an emphasis on vulnerability, exposure and impact throughout sectors and geographies, to enhance risk-informed decision-making. The design and development of the Global Risk Assessment Framework will continue in the same vein by following a broad consultative process, with guidance from an expert group. It will highlight the changes in global risk assessment post-2015. The evolution in approach will more accurately reflect risk in society, with an understanding that data on

information on vulnerability (social and environmental) is severely underdeveloped and will be a priority area for expanded work.

42. The Global Risk Assessment Framework will be launched at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in May 2019. In addition, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction has also launched a national disaster risk assessment guide, which was the result of a collaboration with more than 100 leading experts. The guide focuses on the Sendai Framework's first priority for action (understanding disaster risk), which is the basis for all disaster risk reduction measures.

Agreeing on common indicators with the climate change agenda

43. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction is also focusing on ensuring a closer cohesion and coordination of the Sendai Framework with the Paris Agreement. Whereas initial coherence between the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda has already been achieved at the global level, namely, the work carried out to make certain that the Sendai Framework monitoring process contributes to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, there is a need to continue to work and explore the practicalities of delivering resilience and monitoring progress through a coherent and mutually reinforcing approach within the broader post-2015 agenda, which has to include the Paris Agreement.

44. One area of focus is the work carried out by the Adaptation Committee and the need to identify concrete opportunities for strengthening resilience, reducing vulnerabilities and increasing the understanding and implementation of adaptation action. Leveraging the Sendai Framework monitoring process, specifically the already agreed indicators, to monitor the progress and impact of specific adaptation activities.

45. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction supported an expert meeting on national adaptation goals/indicators and their relationship with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework, organized by the Adaptation Committee and held in Tokyo on 24 and 25 July 2018. The outcome of that meeting was considered by the Adaptation Committee at the fourteenth meeting of its Executive Committee, and the next steps have been included in the workplan for the period 2019–2021.

IV. Coordination and cooperation

46. The previous sections summarized the work of the main international and regional organizations active in statistics relating to hazardous events and disasters. While such statistics are a relatively new endeavour in nearly all countries, there is already considerable complementarity, coordination and cooperation taking place on this topic under the purview of the Statistical Commission. It is therefore important to recognize that the statistical community is not starting from scratch and that it is not working in isolation. In fact, this report validates the growing data demands, technical guidance and sharing of tools and good practices for statistics relating to hazardous events and disasters and illustrates the need to develop a common position towards implementing this important and emerging field of statistics.

47. In this regard, the key elements required to continue to build and strengthen a common statistical framework and a network of experts for disaster-related statistics among the multiple disciplines and areas of expertise involved are already in place. Continued collaboration among the United Nations entities will enable an increased focus on the development of global statistical guidance, with the aim of providing countries with globally harmonized tools for building a common basic range of

statistics relating to hazardous events and disasters based on guidance already developed, as described previously in this report.

48. There is, however, currently no formalized mechanism in place to ensure long-lasting cooperation across disciplines and organizations for these kinds of statistics. At present, coordination and cooperation occur on an ad hoc basis in technical expert groups, which themselves have a defined body of work. A formalization of the coordination and cooperation efforts may now be needed to develop common strategies, address the diverse community of practice, jointly develop methodologies and terminologies and efficiently support sustainable implementation.

V. Way forward

49. The global development agendas, guided by the Sendai Framework, call for all countries to address disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience to hazardous events and disasters with a renewed sense of urgency and to integrate, as appropriate, both disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience into national policies, plans and programmes at all levels. The Sendai Framework has shifted focus towards risk reduction and management, requiring more detailed data and information beyond traditional operational disaster response data. There is now an urgent need for disaster measurements and statistics throughout disaster, time and geographical locations and for the integration of disaster information with social, economic and environment statistics.

50. In order to meet these emerging needs, the statistical community may wish to continue to build and strengthen a common statistical framework and a network of experts for disaster-related statistics among the multiple disciplines and areas of expertise involved, in particularly disaster risk reduction experts, statisticians and geospatial information experts. In terms of advancing the methodological development of this work, the ESCAP disaster-related statistics framework contains technical guidelines that, although developed for the Asia-Pacific region, provide a robust model and serve as a good starting point, have global relevance and are universally applicable as a tool to help responsible agencies to build their capacities for producing internationally harmonized statistics relating to hazardous events and disasters.

51. A universal statistical framework, as a commonly agreed measurement framework, has the potential to address challenges for creating coherence among data sources and to incorporate statistics relating to all types of hazardous events and disasters, regardless of scale, towards a nationally centralized and internationally coherent basic range of statistics relating to hazardous events and disasters. The statistical framework will need to be comprehensive, yet flexible enough to capture and calculate a broad range of indicators for facilitating other types of analysis. This will quickly strengthen international collaboration for coherence of these statistics between countries and over time.

52. Mechanisms to engage with a broader network of partners and stakeholders, including regional commissions, with a focus on statistics relating to hazardous events and disasters can also be explored. This will assist countries in strengthening capacities for disaster management agencies, national statistical offices and other related contributors of official data to meet reporting requirements for evidence-based approaches to achieving the goals and targets in the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda.

53. Taking into account the traditional strengths of national statistical offices and the institutional context for national disaster risk management, these offices can

fulfil different roles. Such roles can be grouped into core roles and tasks that should be undertaken by any national statistical office and additional tasks that could be incorporated into the functions and responsibilities of the offices, and which some have already implemented. The core roles reflect typical strengths of national statistical offices, such as producing time series of statistics and indicators, providing baseline information that is fit for purpose for disaster risk management and supporting the assessment of social, environmental and economic impact. The additional tasks can include leading impact assessments, coordinating geographical information services and conducting risk assessments.

54. The Statistics Division, ECE, ESCAP, ECLAC and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction are committed to providing technical assistance to countries to strengthen their capacities to produce statistics relating to hazardous events and disasters. Their expertise and guidelines are available to foster these efforts. Developing statistics in new areas, however, faces resource constraints and relies on the goodwill and support of Member States and the United Nations system. To achieve a substantial improvement in statistics relating to hazardous events and disasters, more donor support may be needed to benefit Member States, in particular their national statistical offices and national partners.

VI. Points for discussion

55. **The Statistical Commission is invited to:**

- (a) **Express its views on the report and discuss the way forward, in particular on the coordination of the various initiatives, including through the establishment of a network of experts;**
- (b) **Urge the international statistical community to expand its capacity-building efforts in statistics relating to hazardous events and disasters;**
- (c) **Consider modalities for the establishment of a formal mechanism for sustaining the cooperation and coordination of statistics relating to hazardous events and disasters among expert communities, organizations and regions.**

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Item 3 (n) of the provisional agenda*

**Items for discussion and decision: international
migration statistics****International migration statistics****Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

The present report is submitted in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2018/227 and past practices. It sets forth recent work undertaken by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics in 2018 to fulfil the requests of the Statistical Commission set out in its decision 49/101. In particular, the report covers: (a) the central role given to data and to the Statistical Commission in the recently adopted Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration; and (b) the work of the Statistics Division and the Expert Group on methodological developments, including on the revision of the *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration*. Furthermore, the report describes other ongoing work, including capacity-building activities, as well as future priorities for the Statistics Division and the Expert Group to strengthen international migration statistics.

Points for discussion by the Commission include: (a) approving the proposed terms of reference of the Expert Group; (b) expressing its views on and adopting the national migration data infrastructure as a comprehensive framework for use in developing capacity with respect to international migration statistics; and (c) commenting and providing guidance on the ongoing work and future priorities in the area of migration statistics.

* E/CN.3/2019/1.



I. Introduction

1. More people than ever live in a different country from the one in which they were born. Furthermore, new migration patterns are appearing: modern communication technologies and the increased convenience of travel have made temporary and circular migration easier than ever; free movements within a region raise new measurement challenges even for countries with relatively developed statistical systems. From the perspective of countries of origin, building on the benefit of emigration is of paramount importance; in addition to better integration of immigrants in countries of destination, large numbers of returned migrants also raise the question of how they are to be reintegrated in their countries of origin.

2. Increases in migration and changing patterns of migration have raised the demand to capture such phenomena with accurate and timely data. Calls for better data were made by Member States through global initiatives such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1), the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (Assembly resolution 71/1), the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (Assembly resolution 73/195) and a global compact on refugees, pointing to the need to strengthen national capacities to collect and use migration statistics to develop evidence-based migration policies and to guide the integration of migration into national development planning.

3. Despite the unprecedented needs, statistics on international migration remain sparse. Basic statistics on migrant stocks¹ and flows are lacking in many countries. For instance, while population censuses are being conducted in most countries and information on international migration is being collected,² statistics on migrant stocks since 2005 are only available for 125 countries. Migrant stock data disaggregated by additional characteristics such as sex, age, country of origin and education are available in even fewer countries.³ Data on migration flows are even scarcer.⁴ Data on the size of emigration flows and stocks and their characteristics, which are of particular relevance to countries of origin, are almost non-existent. As part of data collection⁵ from national statistics offices for the Demographic Yearbook of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, only 49 countries and areas have provided data on migration flows at least once since 2011 for at least one migration table. In brief, the number of countries and areas which can provide the Statistics Division with flow statistics on international migration remains low. Additional statistics that capture the complexity of migration

¹ According to the current internationally agreed definition of a migrant, the “migrant stocks” are, in fact, composed of all persons who have experienced migration (i.e., a change of their country of usual residence), and it should more properly be referred to as the “number of persons who have ever resided abroad”. However, its measure is often approximated by using proxy variables such as country of birth and/or citizenship. Given that “migrant stocks” is a widespread label, it is thus used in assessing data availability.

² Of the 183 countries or areas for which national questionnaires for the 2010 census round (2005–2014) are available, 178 included at least one question on international migration.

³ Data on immigrants stocks, as measured by the number of foreign-born or the foreign population in a country, for the period 2005–2014 are available for only 125 of the 178 countries or areas that collected migration information in population censuses. When data are further disaggregated by country of birth or citizenship, the number of countries or areas with available data is 100. When data are disaggregated by educational attainment of migrants, only 51 countries or areas have such data. Note that some countries or areas might still have data available but have not yet reported it to the United Nations.

⁴ Note that some countries or areas might still have data available but have not yet reported it to the United Nations. Data for European countries are compiled by Eurostat and are not included in the analysis.

⁵ Annual questionnaires sent to countries are available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dybquest.htm>.

rarely exist; for example, there is no international definition of circular or temporary migration, and internationally comparable statistics are not available.⁶ Measuring movements within a region that has implemented free movement policies is particularly challenging. Moreover, other than the overall estimate of remittances flows to countries, dimensions of the economic and social impact and contribution of migrants are not consistently measured.

4. Producing disaggregated data, including by sex, age and other key characteristics of migrants, to respond to the requirement in the 2030 Agenda of leaving no one behind, raises additional methodological challenges, including in terms of capturing smaller population groups as well as in adopting methods that properly reflect issues pertaining to those subpopulation groups.

5. Therefore, the challenges in producing statistics that reflect the complexity of migration and that inform national policies are multifaceted. They range from insufficient international standards and methodologies, a lack of harmonization, compilation and dissemination of statistics that have already been collected, a lack of coordination and integration of migration statistics generated from multiple sources within a country, as well as a lack of systematic analysis and research that help in understanding the determinants and impact of migration in countries of origin, transit and destination.

6. While non-traditional (big data) sources such as mobile phones records, earth observations and social media are proposed as potential sources of migration data, there has been no concrete case study to shed light on how they can be used to improve the availability of migration statistics for policymaking.

7. The present report details recent work undertaken by the Statistics Division and the United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics in 2018 to improve migration statistics, in the context of: (a) the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration; and (b) methodological developments and capacity-building initiatives, including the revision of the *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration*.⁷ Furthermore, the report describes the ongoing work and future priorities for the Statistics Division and the Expert Group to strengthen international migration statistics.

II. United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics

8. The United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics is a group of subject matter experts from national statistical offices and migration-relevant line ministries of countries and from international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as other independent experts. The Expert Group first met in June 2017 and discussed data needs and methodological issues related to statistics on international migration in the context of the 2030 Agenda. The main focus of that meeting was to discuss and agree on the definition of migratory status for Sustainable Development Goal data disaggregation and to identify a list of relevant Goal indicators to be disaggregated by migratory status for global monitoring.⁸

⁶ A regional statistical definition of circular migration has been developed by the Economic Commission for Europe (see <https://www.unecce.org/index.php?id=44717>) and relevant data are currently being collected by Eurostat.

⁷ Available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/seriesm/seriesm_58rev1e.pdf.

⁸ Documents of the 2017 meeting of the United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics are available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2017/new-york--egm-migration-data>.

9. The work of the Expert Group was welcomed by the Statistical Commission in its decision 49/101, in which the Commission also recommended that the Group continue its work in improving statistics on international migration by advancing methodologies to measure the phenomenon, including through the revision of the 1998 *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration* (see E/2018/24-E/CN.3/2018/37).

10. As of November 2018, the Expert Group consisted of representatives from 20 countries, 18 international/regional organizations, offices or initiatives and 4 independent experts. The main activities of the Group include: (a) providing guidance and technical support in advancing methodologies related to migration statistics, including the revision of the *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration*; (b) supporting activities that address data gaps and national needs for capacity development on migration statistics; and (c) facilitating coordination among regional and international agencies on the development of methods and capacity-building activities to avoid the duplication of efforts and to ensure that efforts at the national level are aligned.

11. The Expert Group will work through face-to-face and virtual meetings. The work carried out by the Group since July 2017 is described in the following sections, whenever applicable. The terms of reference for the Group have also been included in the present report (see annex I).

III. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: implications for migration statistics

12. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was recently adopted in Marrakech, Morocco, in December 2018. The Global Compact is the first-ever global agreement under the auspices of the United Nations on a common approach to international migration in all its dimensions and represents a historic opportunity to improve international cooperation on migration and to strengthen the contribution of migrants and migration to sustainable development. The Global Compact sets out 23 objectives, the first among which is dedicated to migration statistics and calls for the collection and utilization of accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies.

13. Following the request of the Statistical Commission in its decision 49/101, the Bureau of the Statistical Commission closely followed the negotiations of the Global Compact from April to July 2018 and provided guidance to the negotiations on issues related to statistics, in particular under objective 1.

14. Objective 1 of the Global Compact gives an important role to the Statistical Commission, in terms of harmonizing methodologies and in regularly reviewing a global programme (to be developed) to strengthen national capacities to collect, analyse and disseminate migration data. The Global Compact also provides a comprehensive policy framework to help countries and the global statistical community to better understand data needs and the related data gaps for evidence-based policymaking.

IV. Methodological developments relating to migration statistics

A. Sustainable Development Goal indicators relevant to migrants and migration

15. At the first meeting of the Expert Group, in June 2017, members agreed on the definition of migratory status for Sustainable Development Goal data disaggregation at the global level and on the list of Goal indicators for data disaggregation by migratory status for global monitoring.⁹ The Expert Group further recommended that a technical report on measuring migration-relevant Goal indicators be prepared to provide guidance on how to produce and use data on those Goal indicators. The technical report would also cover definitions and metadata and identify currently available and potentially usable data for indicators to be disaggregated by migratory status. A draft version of the technical report was prepared by the Statistics Division and was circulated for consultation with relevant custodian agencies of Goal indicators and members of the Group. In addition, a mapping exercise was recently launched as part of the European Commission's MEDSTAT IV project to assess how many of the Goal indicators identified by the Group could be compiled on the basis of the data available in the project countries. The results of that exercise will be included in the technical report.

16. Feedback received on the draft technical report points to the need for further development of methodologies in two specific areas in order to produce data disaggregated by migratory status. The first focuses on special sampling strategies to ensure the representativeness of migrants covered in multi-purpose household surveys. The second addresses the need to integrate household survey data with data collected through administrative sources or from population censuses. These two streams of methodological work will be undertaken by the Statistics Division and partners, under the guidance of the Expert Group. Feedback also pointed to the need to identify a list of gender-responsive and child-sensitive indicators that are relevant for migration and migrants.

17. Finally, guidance provided in the draft technical report will also be tested in upcoming capacity-building activities in countries. Once finalized, the technical report will be shared with the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators to ensure its wide dissemination and use for Goal data disaggregation by migratory status.

B. Guidance note on a set of standard questions on international migration for population censuses and sample surveys

18. In an effort to improve the quality and comparability of international migration statistics collected through national population censuses and sample surveys, a guidance note was prepared by the Statistics Division, with feedback from the Expert Group, on a set of standard questions on international migration. The guidance note was prepared on the basis of a comprehensive review of national census questionnaires for the 2010 round of population and housing censuses.¹⁰ However, much of its content also applies to household surveys.

⁹ The recommendations of the 2017 meeting of the Expert Group are available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2017/new-york--egm-migration-data/EGM%20Recommendations_FINAL.pdf.

¹⁰ See <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/census/document-resources/>.

19. The guidance note covers two sets of questions. The first set relates to questions that distinguish migrants from non-migrants, including questions on country of birth, country of citizenship, country of birth of parents, household members who have ever resided abroad and household members currently residing abroad. The second set of questions seeks information about key characteristics of migrants. Those questions focus on the year or period of arrival in the country, the acquisition of citizenship and the reason for migration.

20. The sets of questions were also reviewed and considered for use in future surveys by national and international experts working under the regional programme on household international migration surveys in the Mediterranean countries, which is being implemented under the guidance of the European Commission and other international organizations.¹¹ Additional testing of the questions will potentially be carried out by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in its multiple indicator cluster surveys at the beginning of 2019.

21. Once the guideline note is finalized on the basis of results from further testing and feedbacks from countries, the Statistics Division will work with relevant partners, including the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF, to distribute it widely for use in countries.

C. Revision of the Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration

22. The revision of the *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration* is underway. A number of consultative meetings were organized with members of the Expert Group and additional countries in Asia and Europe. Those meetings aimed to solicit feedback from countries on their experiences with the *Recommendations* and sought suggestions for their revision. Major issues being discussed include: (a) the trade-off between being a conceptual versus a practical publication; (b) the need to build stronger links with data needs for policymaking and to provide guidance on data analysis and data use; (c) revisiting the concept and definition of an international migrant; (d) covering new migration patterns and new data sources; and (e) incorporating relevant frameworks, such as the *International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics*¹² and the new guidelines of the International Labour Organization concerning statistics on international labour migration,¹³ while ensuring harmonization across them.

23. Further consultations with countries in other regions will be carried out subsequently. A draft annotated outline is available as a background document. The revision will be carried out by the Statistics Division and the Expert Group. The first draft of the revised *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration* is expected to be available in 2021 for global consultation.

¹¹ In collaboration with the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the World Bank.

¹² Available at <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/KS-GQ-18-004>.

¹³ Available at https://www.ilo.org/global/statistics-and-databases/meetings-and-events/international-conference-of-labour-statisticians/WCMS_648922/lang--en/index.htm.

V. Capacity-building activities

A. National migration data infrastructure: a comprehensive framework for capacity development on international migration statistics

24. In response to the mandate given by the Statistical Commission to its Bureau and to the Statistics Division to support the negotiation of the Global Compact, the Division, under the guidance of the Bureau, developed a comprehensive framework for capacity development on international migration statistics, on the basis of a proposed national migration data infrastructure (see annex II).¹⁴ A national migration data infrastructure is a platform that brings together key stakeholders in a given country, including the main users of migration data, such as policymakers, the private sector, research and training institutions, civil society and data producers from the national statistical office and the statistical units of other relevant ministries.

25. In accordance with the country-specific situation, the national migration data infrastructure should be led by an interagency coordination body that would coordinate efforts among all entities within the infrastructure.¹⁵ The data infrastructure would start with an assessment of data needs for national migration policy and end with the proper dissemination and use of data for policy purposes. Guided by national migration data policy and the open data principle, the data infrastructure should have an agreed architecture for interrelated databases for migration data that could be used by policymakers, databases that would be robust, consistent, of high quality and interoperable. This network of databases would form the core of data support to drive policymaking on migration.

B. Initial assessment of national needs for capacity-building

26. As a first step to help to better understand national needs to strengthen statistics on international migration, the Statistics Division conducted a survey among the 20 countries that are members of the Expert Group on their needs for capacity-building.¹⁶

27. Analysis of the responses from 12 countries showed that the most challenging areas requiring international support are: (a) the production of data on drivers and the impact of migration; (b) the use of administrative records for migration data, especially border records and visas issuance records; (c) the integration of data sources; and (d) the use of migration data to inform policies. In terms of population censuses, while most countries have already included or are planning to include core migration topics such as country of birth, citizenship and duration of stay in their 2020 round of censuses, data analysis and dissemination will be more challenging. Also, asking a question regarding the reason for migration has not been very common

¹⁴ To be made available as a background document entitled "National migration data infrastructure – a comprehensive framework for capacity development on international migration statistics".

¹⁵ Activities to be covered by the interagency coordination body may include: (a) assessing gaps in migration data with a view to effective policymaking; (b) facilitating the integration of migration into other development policy areas; (c) enhancing data flows within the national statistical system, including by establishing the legal framework necessary for data sharing; (d) improving synergy with respect to concepts, definitions and data collection and dissemination methods; and (e) coordinating methodological developments in producing timely, reliable and policy-relevant statistics on international migration.

¹⁶ The survey questionnaire will be made available as a background document entitled "Needs assessment among national statistical offices and line ministries working with migration data". The survey is in line with data requirements covered by objective 1 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (General Assembly resolution 73/195).

in countries. The use of new data sources, including big data, was also indicated as challenging for countries and warranting international assistance. Other areas that have been found to be less challenging but still requiring international attention include applying internationally agreed definitions and standards on migration statistics, collecting migration data through surveys, producing migration profiles and elaborating and implementing a comprehensive national strategy for improving migration data in certain countries.

28. The assessment provides an initial overview of the needs of Expert Group member countries in terms of international support to strengthen their migration statistics systems. More in-depth assessments will be carried out using a toolkit developed by the Statistics Division, in consultation with the Expert Group.¹⁷ The toolkit consists of a set of questions that were developed on the basis of the national migration data infrastructure described in section V.A above.

C. Ongoing capacity-building activities to improve migration statistics

29. In 2018, the Statistics Division launched a project, under the eleventh tranche of the Development Account, on the collection and use of international migration data in the context of the 2030 Agenda. The four-year project is being led by the Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and IOM. The guidelines on the production of migration-relevant Sustainable Development Goal indicators, which were requested by the Expert Group, will be one of the key outputs of the project. The guidelines will be used in capacity-building activities for countries in Asia and Latin America, together with other United Nations publications related to migration statistics,¹⁸ as well as the toolkit for capacity-building described in paragraph 28 above. The Development Account project also covers capacity-building activities to help countries to report data for Goal indicator 16.2.2 on the total number of victims of trafficking in persons (see General Assembly resolution 71/313, annex).

30. Capacity-building activities are also being carried out by other partner entities. For example, since 1996, the European Commission's MEDSTAT programme has been working with Mediterranean countries to improve migration data collection, including by supporting and implementing specialized household international migration surveys in Mediterranean countries. In Europe, the Economic Commission for Europe and Eurostat regularly organize work sessions on migration statistics to foster advances in this domain and facilitate the exchange of best practices. The Economic Commission for Europe has been holding annual capacity-building workshops for the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to support the use of methodological guidance and to facilitate communication among countries, as well as among producers and users of migration statistics. Since 2015, ILO has been organizing regular migration workshops on labour migration statistics for 22 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, in collaboration with Statistics Korea. ILO

¹⁷ To be made available as a background document entitled "The toolkit to assess national migration data capacity".

¹⁸ Including *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration: Revision 1* (available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/seriesm/seriesm_58rev1e.pdf); "Principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses: Revision 3" (available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/NewYork/2014/P&R_Revision3.pdf); and the "Handbook on measuring international migration through population censuses" (available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/48th-session/documents/BG-4a-Migration-Handbook-E.pdf>).

will also assist countries in implementing the revised draft guidelines concerning statistics on international labour migration,¹⁹ which were endorsed by the twentieth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, in October 2018. The Global Migration Data Analysis Centre of IOM supports Governments in their efforts to improve migration data collection, analysis, sharing and use for policymaking at the national and regional levels, in collaboration with partners including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, ILO, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the African Union. With regard to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Global Migration Data Analysis Centre also prepared guidelines for the harmonization of migration data management in the ECOWAS region, which were used to facilitate a regional training of trainers and training sessions at the national level in ECOWAS member States in 2017.

31. In addition, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees will be working with partners to assist countries in the implementation of the *International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics*, endorsed in 2018 by the Statistical Commission pursuant to its decision 49/115. Statistics Sweden, in collaboration with the African Union, will start implementing a project to strengthen national capacity in sub-Saharan Africa over the period 2019–2021. The project will take a regional approach to developing regionally-adapted guidelines, establishing national and regional networks and improving the identification and flow of migration data from countries. As part of its support for the 2020 census round, UNFPA, in collaboration with the Statistics Division and IOM, will provide support to ensure the timely processing, analysis and dissemination of migration-related census results, disaggregated and tabulated in accordance with international standards.

32. Under the guidance of the Expert Group, the Statistics Division is currently developing a migration statistics portal to facilitate the storing and sharing of methodologies, data and metadata, as well as technical and other materials for capacity-building activities on migration data. Currently, the portal disseminates information on how national censuses collect information on international migration, on the basis of a review of national censuses carried out in the 2010 round and 2020 rounds.²⁰

VI. International Forum on Migration Statistics

33. The Statistics Division, in collaboration with OECD, IOM and the Population Division, organized the first International Forum on Migration Statistics,²¹ which was held in Paris on 15 and 16 January 2018. Mobilizing expertise from a wide range of disciplines, such as political science, economics, demography, development, geospatial science, sociology, statistics and information technology, the Forum included 5 plenary sessions with high-level speakers and 39 parallel sessions with over 200 presentations.

34. Discussion at the Forum pointed to the importance of disaggregated migration data to monitor progress towards sustainable development and identified significant migration data gaps. Forum participants further acknowledged the leading role of national statistical offices in improving evidence and increasing data on migration, including by taking advantage of big data and other innovative approaches, while stressing the need to strengthen national statistical capacity as well as cooperation among international agencies. Finally, the participants also emphasized that effective

¹⁹ Available at https://www.ilo.org/global/statistics-and-databases/meetings-and-events/international-conference-of-labour-statisticians/WCMS_648922/lang-en/index.htm.

²⁰ See <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/sconcerns/migration/index.cshl.nl>.

²¹ See <http://www.oecd.org/migration/forum-migration-statistics/>.

communication of data was necessary to overcome public misperceptions of migration and migrants.

35. The first International Forum on Migration Statistics succeeded in bringing together policymakers, official statisticians and experts from the private sector, civil society and funding agencies to share and discuss data needs for policymaking, issues in measuring migration and innovative methods, as well as to foster collaboration among all partners. The Forum was also instrumental in identifying areas where additional efforts were needed, including in terms of methodological developments, sharing good practices and capacity-building. The next International Forum on Migration Statistics will be held either in 2019 or 2020.

VII. Programme of work of the Statistics Division and the Expert Group

36. It is proposed that the Statistics Division and the Expert Group carry out the following activities in the period 2019–2020:

- (a) Finalize the technical report on measuring migration-relevant Sustainable Development Goal indicators;
- (b) Finalize the guidance note on a set of standard questions on international migration for population censuses and surveys, after adapting and testing the questions in national censuses and surveys, and distribute the guidance note widely;
- (c) Continue the work on other methodological developments, including the revision of the *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration*;
- (d) Continue to develop technical materials and identify good practices related to migration statistics;
- (e) Organize the second International Forum on Migration Statistics;
- (f) Develop a global programme to strengthen national capacity on migration statistics, on the basis of the national migration data infrastructure outlined above, taking into consideration existing regional and subregional mechanisms, and provide estimates of the resources needed for the implementation of all its components.

VIII. Points for discussion and decision

37. The Statistical Commission is invited to:

- (a) Take note of the contribution of the Bureau of the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division to the negotiations of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration;
- (b) Take note of the work carried out by the Statistics Division and the United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics on the improvement of migration statistics;
- (c) Express its views and adopt the terms of reference for the Expert Group;
- (d) Express its views and adopt the national migration data infrastructure, which will be used as a comprehensive framework for capacity development on international migration statistics;
- (e) Express its views and adopt the programme of work of the Statistics Division and the Expert Group, as set out in paragraph 36 above.

Annex I

United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics

Terms of Reference
(December 2018)

A. Background

1. The United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics is a group of subject matter experts from national statistical offices, international, regional and subregional organizations, migration-relevant line ministries of countries, and other experts in the area. The Group first met in June 2017 in New York and discussed data needs and methodological issues relating to statistics on international migration, in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.¹

2. In its decision 49/101, the Statistical Commission welcomed the work of the Expert Group (see E/2018/24-E/CN.3/2018/37). The Commission also recommended that the Expert Group continue its work on improving statistics on international migration through advancing methodologies to measure the phenomenon, including by revising the 1998 *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration*.² The Commission also requested the Expert Group to undertake additional activities, including assessing data gaps and national needs for capacity development and ensuring proper coordination among international initiatives and programmes that support national statistical systems, with a view to producing and disseminating high-quality and fit-for-purpose statistics on international migration.

B. Objectives and tasks

3. The overall objective of the Expert Group is to improve statistics on international migration for effective policymaking through: (a) advancing methodologies on collecting, compiling and using statistics relevant to migration; (b) implementing activities that address data gaps and national needs for capacity development; and (c) enhancing the coordination of international and regional initiatives among countries and within countries.

4. The work of the Expert Group should respond to and be aligned with relevant international development and protection frameworks, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and a global compact on refugees.

5. More specifically, the Expert Group will:

(a) Advance methodologies to measure the migration phenomenon for data-driven policymaking and for monitoring progress towards the 2030 Agenda, including through the revision of the *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration*;

(b) Develop a global programme, and provide estimates of the resources needed in that regard, to strengthen national capacity on migration statistics that includes: (i) developing technical materials such as needs-assessment tools;

¹ The main focus of the meeting was to discuss and agree on the definition of migratory status and to identify a list of relevant Sustainable Development Goal indicators to be disaggregated by migratory status for global monitoring. For further information, please see the documents of the 2017 meeting of the United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics, which are available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2017/new-york--egm-migration-data>.

² Available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/seriesm/seriesm_58rev1e.pdf.

(ii) providing guidance and technical support to countries in identifying and addressing data gaps and national needs; and (iii) making recommendations to be considered by the Statistical Commission;

(c) Facilitate coordination among regional and international agencies on the development of methods, as well as capacity-building activities, to avoid the duplication of efforts, optimize the use of resources and ensure that activities are consistent and aligned with national needs. The Expert Group will also collaborate with other relevant United Nations mechanisms, such as the International Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics, the United Nations Network on Migration and other regional migration statistics groups, on issues related to statistics on international migration.

C. Membership

6. Members should be senior representatives from countries, regional agencies and academic institutions. Countries should be represented by both national statistical offices and relevant line ministries. Initial agencies, countries and other members have been selected on the basis of their mandates and commitment to the advancement of statistics on international migration. Additional member countries were added following recommendations from regional commissions to also include major migrant-sending countries.

7. Members will be part of the Expert Group for an initial period of two years, after which a rotation will be proposed by the Co-Chairs of the Group, with a view to ensuring equitable regional representation, including members of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. The rotation will be implemented in a way that ensures institutional knowledge is preserved and that the work of the Group can continue smoothly. Members are expected to be active in the deliberations and activities of the Group.

8. The Expert Group may invite other agencies, countries or individuals as resource persons or observers, if needed. The membership may be increased or decreased as the exigencies of the work require and on the basis of available resources.

9. The Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat serves as the secretariat of the Expert Group. The Division, in close consultation with the Co-Chairs, proposes the programme of work for the Group, coordinates the overall work of the Group, organizes regular meetings, prepares and maintains records of discussions and agreements and reports to the Statistical Commission. In addition, the Division will lead and contribute to various areas of work on methodological development and capacity-building.

10. The Co-Chair positions will rotate on a 2-year cycle. One Co-Chair is selected from international entities and the other from representatives of national statistical offices. The Expert Group will elect the Co-Chairs by majority vote from among the volunteers expressing an interest in the positions. The two Co-Chairs will work closely with the Statistics Division on strategic planning in relation to the programme of work of the Expert Group and oversee the work of the task forces. They will also report to the Group on work progress, problems identified, solutions recommended and decisions to be made.

D. Organization of work

11. The Expert Group will meet face-to-face at least once a year, supplemented with additional virtual meetings as necessary. Participation in the face-to-face meetings is self-funded. A limited number of developing countries that are members of the Expert Group may receive funding, when available, to support their participation in the meetings.

12. The Expert Group will establish task forces on specific topics, when needed. The task forces will have clear terms of reference, with clear time frames for the completion of their work, and will report back to the Expert Group.

E. Expected duration

13. The work of the Expert Group will be ongoing. The terms of reference will be reviewed when needed and as requested by the Statistical Commission.

Current members of the United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics (December 2018)

Countries (20)

Canada
Ecuador
Egypt
Georgia
Ghana
Indonesia
Italy
Jamaica
Jordan
Mexico
Morocco
Norway
Republic of Moldova
Russian Federation
South Africa
Sri Lanka
Switzerland
Thailand
Uganda
United States of America

Organizations, offices and initiatives (13)

ECOWAS
Eurostat

Financing for Sustainable Development Office

Global Pulse

ILO

IOM

OECD

Population Division

UNESCO (Institute for Statistics)

UNFPA

UNHCR

UNICEF

UNODC

Regional commissions (5)

ECA

ECE

ECLAC

ESCAP

ESCWA

Independent experts (4)

Giambattista Cantisani, Expert

Olga Chudinovskikh, Moscow State University

Keiko Osaki-Tomita, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Ann Singleton, Bristol University

Secretariat

Statistics Division

Abbreviations: ECA, Economic Commission for Africa; ECE, Economic Commission for Europe; ECLAC, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; ECOWAS, Economic Community of West African States; ESCAP, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; ESCWA, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; ILO, International Labour Organization; IOM, International Organization for Migration; OECD, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; UNESCO, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund; UNHCR, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; UNICEF, United Nations Children's Fund; UNODC, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

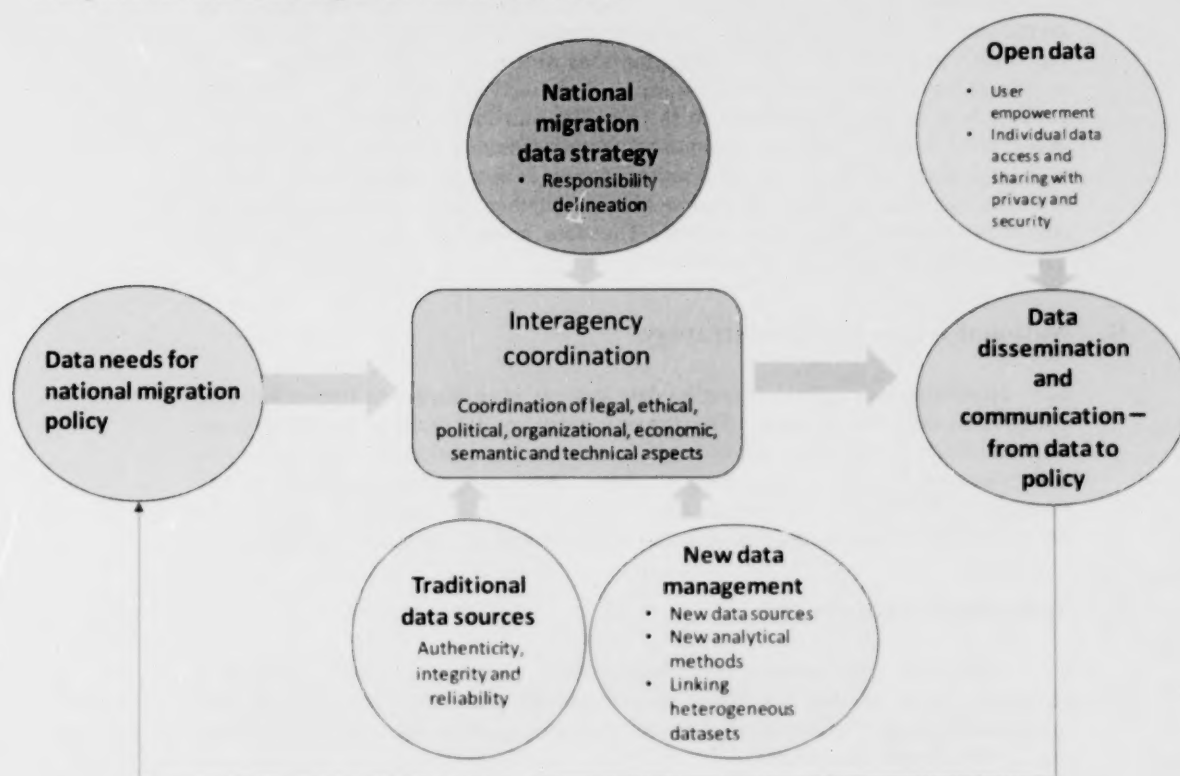
Annex II

National migration data infrastructure: a framework for capacity development

1. The present section describes key components of a national migration data infrastructure that will be used as a framework for capacity development. A national migration data infrastructure is a platform that brings together key stakeholders in a country, including the main users of migration data, such as policymakers, the private sector, academia, civil society and data producers from the national statistical offices and the statistical units of other relevant ministries (see figure).

Figure

Comprehensive national migration data infrastructure



2. In accordance with the country-specific situation, the national migration data infrastructure should be led by an interagency coordination body that would coordinate efforts among all entities within the infrastructure.¹ The data infrastructure would start with an assessment of data needs for national migration policy and end with the proper dissemination and use of data for policy purposes. Guided by national

¹ Activities to be covered by the interagency coordination body may include: (a) assessing gaps in migration data with a view to effective policymaking; (b) facilitating the integration of migration into other development policy areas; (c) enhancing data flows within the national statistical system, including by establishing the legal framework necessary for data sharing; (d) improving synergy with respect to concepts, definitions and data collection and dissemination methods; and (e) coordinating methodological developments in producing timely, reliable and policy-relevant statistics on international migration.

migration data policy and the open data principle, the data infrastructure should have an agreed architecture for interrelated databases for migration data that could be used by policymakers, databases that would be robust, consistent, of high quality and interoperable. This network of databases would form the core of data support to drive policymaking on migration.

3. Key databases within the migration data infrastructure consists of two main types, classified by their sources: (a) traditional data sources, including censuses, surveys and administrative sources; and (b) non-traditional data sources, such as geospatial information, including satellite images, and other types of unstructured data generated from business transactions, mobile phone tracking and social media.

A. Data needs for national migration policy

4. Demands for official statistics by policymakers to support their work have been on the rise. For example, countries with a big influx of immigrants are interested in the number and characteristics of immigrants, as well as the smaller geographic units in which they reside in order to determine how well integrated migrant are into society, how migrants contribute to the national and local economy, and whether public services are prepared to accommodate the needs of immigrants. For countries with large-scale emigration, a major policy interest is in better understanding aspects of their citizens living abroad, including the total number, their characteristics and the countries to which they have moved. The data needed to answer those policy questions should be clearly articulated.

B. National migration data strategy

5. Establishing a national migration data strategy is an important step in building a migration data infrastructure. The strategy needs to elaborate on or stipulate the responsibilities of different government institutions and private sector entities in collecting and producing migration statistics. Data integration should be a core element of the national migration data strategy and the sharing of data among producers should be encouraged, or better yet, required, by statistical legislation.

C. Traditional data sources

6. Traditional data sources for international migration include population censuses, sample surveys and administrative sources. There is a need to ensure that timely and high-quality migration statistics are collected, processed and disseminated from all traditional data sources.

7. For example, key migration questions such as country of birth and country of citizenship should be asked in censuses and surveys, and the information collected should be disseminated in a timely manner and be of high quality. For in-depth analysis of the impact of migration on a society, surveys need to be planned carefully so that they ask not only the right questions but also adopt the appropriate sampling strategy.

8. Administrative data are extremely important for migration measurement. For example, border control entities either collect embarkation and disembarkation cards or have information from passport and visa scanning, ministries of labour possess data on work permits granted to foreigners, ministries of education have information on foreign students attending school in the country, and population registers or registers of foreigners maintain data on people residing in the country. Such

information cannot be readily obtained through censuses or surveys. To make migration data relevant and timely, the use of administrative data should be encouraged. This means that more information should be captured, compiled and shared within the migration data infrastructure.

D. New data management

9. Information on migration is usually captured through multiple data sources. For a comprehensive picture, it is necessary to integrate information from different data sources, including censuses, surveys and administrative data, within the country and among countries.

10. Mobile phones, Internet-based tools and platforms, such as social media and online payment services, and digital sensors and measures such as satellite imagery represent potential innovative or “new data” sources of migration data. Existing migration studies based on those new data sources attest to their potential. Bringing together private data producers, analysts, data scientists and technologists to conduct additional research and experiments in this area would be essential. Furthermore, connecting the latest research and technology with the community of official statistics is crucial to fully integrating new data into the migration data infrastructure.

11. Innovative approaches to the integration of multiple data sources should be promoted. The use of new data should be explored to enhance the availability and timeliness of migration statistics, while ensuring that privacy, ethical and human rights issues are adequately addressed and while taking the quality of data into consideration.

E. Data dissemination and communication – from data to policies

12. An important post-data production step, which is often overlooked, is to ensure that data are disseminated and well communicated to policymakers and the general public and that such data are properly used. Statistical offices need to communicate effectively to help policymakers, the media and the general public to identify, understand and make full use of trusted sources of data and statistics, in order to support the planning, implementation and monitoring of development efforts at all levels of decision-making.

13. This element is particularly important to promoting fact-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration, as stated in objective 17 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

14. Data dissemination in a country should be guided by the open data principle. That is, data that is disseminated should be of high quality, well documented, respect data privacy concerns, free, easily accessible and usable.² The embrace of the open data principle by national statistical offices and other government agencies will enable users to take advantage of data that are complete, timely and adhere to standards.

15. Open data are crucial to yet challenging for migration statistics. Many countries would need guidance in implementing open data principles, with respect to, inter alia: (a) establishing communications and outreach programmes to engage all stakeholders; (b) revising laws or legal frameworks to allow for provisions that are necessary to ensure that data are open and accessible, while fully respecting data

² The open data principle was thus defined during an international seminar on open data for the Sustainable Development Goals, held in Seoul from 25 to 27 September 2017.

privacy concerns; and (c) developing data interoperability principles and tools, given that data interoperability is an important tool for ensuring that open data are usable (see E/CN.3/2018/6).

16. National statistical offices have an important role to play in introducing open data principles. Their experience and technical skill in setting standards for data collection and dissemination are key in issuing guidelines on metadata, data anonymization and data privacy in the context of open data.

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Item 3 (o) of the provisional agenda*

Items for discussion and decision: human settlements statistics**Report of the United Nations Human Settlements
Programme on human settlements statistics****Note by the Secretary-General**

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2018/227 and past practices, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith the report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) on human settlements statistics, which is presented to the Commission for discussion. It presents progress led by UN-Habitat in the field of human settlements statistics collection and compilation methods and on the development of methodologies and advancements in data collection and reporting on selected human settlements indicators that are relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals. Recommendations on improving the monitoring of and reporting on human settlement indicators for national statistical offices are highlighted.

The Commission is invited to endorse the national sample of cities methodology for countries that are constrained in terms of the national monitoring of and reporting on all their cities; endorse the establishment of a group of experts for the revision of the guidelines and principles for the implementation of the City Prosperity index; endorse the establishment of a group of experts for the development of guidelines for identifying slums; comment on challenges relating to the definition of cities; and comment on the coordination mechanism for work on human settlements statistics at the international level. Points for discussion by the Commission are contained in paragraph 49 of the report.

* E/CN.3/2019/L



I. Introduction

1. At its forty-fifth session, held from 4 to 7 March 2014, the Statistical Commission took note of the report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on human settlements statistics (E/CN.3/2014/17), in which the Secretary-General summarized advances in a methodology developed by UN-Habitat and partners to measure security of tenure in a consistent manner across countries and regions. Further work on that methodology led to the refinement of the Global Land Indicators Initiative guides, timely reporting on the plight of slum dwellers, and improved global monitoring of access to urban basic services.

2. The present report provides an overview of the activities carried out since 2014, including refinements for several methodologies connected to the global monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals relating to urban matters, which are available as part of a synthesis report on Goal 11.¹ More of the methodological work is featured in the report on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (A/73/83-E/2018/62). The report further elaborates on the progress of methodological work for urban indicators, the consultative workshops on human settlements statistics, the advancement of the application of the framework for a national sample of cities and the City Prosperity Initiative by countries worldwide, related regional training and capacity-building activities, data collection activities and advocacy.

II. The Sustainable Development Goals and human settlements statistics

3. Since the submission of the previous report on human settlements statistics, the global community has embraced several agendas relating to urban matters, including, most notably, the New Urban Agenda (General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1), along with its associated global indicator framework (General Assembly resolution 71/313, annex), which is leading to the expansion of the scope and breadth of global human settlements statistics within the whole statistical system. This has also helped to promote the engagement of a wider range of data producers and users around human settlements indicators.

4. The New Urban Agenda and 2030 Agenda emphasize the need to ensure that progress reports are based on an analysis of the activities of governments at the national, subnational and local levels, as well as on analysis from the reports of UN-Habitat, other relevant entities of the United Nations system, relevant stakeholders in support of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, and the reports of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat. All the evidence should also incorporate, to the extent possible, the input of multilateral organizations and processes, where appropriate, civil society, the private sector and academia, and should build on existing platforms and processes, avoid duplication and respond to local, subnational and national circumstances and to legislation, capacities, needs and priorities.

5. Other global agendas, such as the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, have also introduced new sets of indicators and statistics, thereby increasing the already expanded framework of indicators. There are

¹ United Nations Human Settlements Programme, *SDG 11 Synthesis Report 2018: High-Level Political Forum 2018 – Tracking Progress Towards Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements* (Nairobi, 2018).

now 81 indicators among the Sustainable Development Goal indicators that have a direct or indirect link to human settlements indicators and statistics. The New Urban Agenda and all the other complementary global agendas largely rely on the core set of human settlements indicators and statistics developed in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals for global monitoring and reporting.

III. Progress on the reporting of human settlements statistics

6. In line with its mandate and the spirit of the New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat has coordinated three major reports detailing the progress and achievements in human settlements indicators and statistics over the past five years. The latest trends on wide-ranging issues affecting human settlements as well as many global urban challenges, such as air pollution, urban transport, waste management, the cost of housing, urban sprawl, climate change and urban public spaces, are presented in the following reports:

(a) *World Cities Report 2016: Urbanization and Development – Emerging Futures*;

(b) The quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (A/73/83-E/2018/62);

(c) The synthesis report on Goal 11 indicators.¹

7. In July 2018, the first of a series of five quadrennial reports, to be prepared over the period from 2016 to 2036, was considered by the Economic and Social Council (A/73/83-E/2018/62). Its findings were elaborated upon in the synthesis report profiling the progress towards Goal 11, which was discussed as part of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2018. Jointly, those reports are a key component of the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda and other regional urban agendas.

8. The need for countries to monitor at the local level, but to report progress on cities and human settlements at the national level, is acknowledged in the synthesis report. Addressing and resolving urban issues from the methodological point of view is a prerequisite and an entry point for elaborating on a number of sustainable goal and targets, therefore requiring policy coherence and the development of vertical and horizontal systems of collaboration on monitoring, reporting and implementation.

9. The three above-mentioned progress reports were presented at the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2018, with a view to ensuring coherence, coordination and collaborative linkages with the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other global agendas.

IV. Global and regional workshops related to capacity-building activities

10. UN-Habitat and other custodian agencies have organized regular technical cooperation workshops in the field of human settlements statistics, which has included country advisory services, national and regional workshops and direct technical assistance.² Over the past five years, technical assistance has been directed at building the institutional capacity of national statistical offices to harmonize

² See, for example, <https://unhabitat.org/the-journey-to-monitoring-sdg-11-kick-off-in-the-asia-pacific-region/> and <https://unhabitat.org/preparing-cities-in-africa-to-monitor-and-report-on-goal-11/>.

systems for collecting human settlements statistics, refining definitions relation to urban areas and designing data collection tools. Such assistance has also included conducting routine human settlements statistics surveys that cover the collection of data on composite indicators, such as those that monitor slums, access to basic services, land tenure security or urban governance and civic participation. Capacity-building activities have also included the compilation of analytical and performance indicators that are relevant to the understanding of human settlements policy and the monitoring of programme implementation. In recent years, UN-Habitat provided technical assistance, to varying degrees, to countries including Botswana, Cameroon, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Kuwait, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam. At the time of writing, several global projects for capacity-building were being implemented in countries across several regions.

11. Since 2014, 26 capacity development workshops have been organized, with nearly 1,000 participants drawn from national statistical offices, local and national governments, civil society, academia, and public and private institutions, as well as representatives from special groups such as youth, women and persons with disabilities. The regional workshops for national statistical offices have proven to be a cost-effective way to inform national statisticians about the latest international recommendations linked to human settlements statistics. The national statistical offices within a given region generally face common challenges and the regional workshops not only provide space for deliberations on conceptual problems but are also an excellent forum for the exchange of experiences and best practices. Over the past three years, UN-Habitat and partners have jointly conducted a number of regional and international workshops, including: an international workshop on human settlements indicators linked to the Sustainable Development Goals in Naivasha, Kenya, in February 2017 (93 participants from 31 countries); a regional workshop on human settlements indicators for Africa, organized with the Economic Commission for Africa in December 2017 (38 participants from 11 countries); a regional workshop on human settlements indicators for Asia-Pacific countries, organized with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in March 2018 (46 participants from 14 countries); a regional workshop for Arab States, organized with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in July 2018 (32 participants from 11 countries); and an international workshop on human settlements statistics in Kuala Lumpur, in February 2018, as part of the World Urban Forum (85 participants from 27 countries). Over the next two years, more capacity development initiatives will be directed at cities and local governments, as well as national statistical offices. Most of the efforts will focus on how to apply the concepts of the national sample of cities, harmonizing city definitions, the use of geospatial technologies in monitoring Goals as they relate to urban matters, establishing national statistical systems and networks to support urban monitoring of a diverse and evolving set of Sustainable Development Goal indicators relating to urban matters, data compilation and presentation at city level, and how civil society and urban communities can contribute to global reporting on human settlements.

12. Since 2016, UN-Habitat and all other lead custodian agencies have developed indicator-specific training modules that provide step-by-step guidance on the concepts and methods of computation of several indicators relating to Goal 11. The modules are accessible to all countries and cities free of charge. In addition to the capacity development initiatives outlined above, the network of urban observatories available in many regions and countries provides capacity development concerning Goal 11. Training sessions on setting up urban observatories have been conducted in countries including Botswana, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Jordan, Kuwait, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Viet Nam and Zambia. Each session resulted in the creation of several local urban observatories. Other custodian agencies as relates to Goal 11 have

also been undertaking capacity development initiatives in collaboration with the regional commissions.

V. Data gaps and challenges in reporting on human settlements statistics

13. Despite the ongoing efforts of UN-Habitat and the larger network of stakeholders working on human settlements statistics, it should be noted that the need for technical assistance concerning human settlements statistics, in all countries, is much greater than the resources currently available. While some positive trends in the improvement of human settlements statistics have been observed globally, a critical gap remains in the production of human settlements data in many countries, especially as regards the spatial-analysis dependent indicators.

14. Many Sustainable Development Goal targets and indicators pertaining to urban matters refer directly to cities as the unit of analysis for tracking progress. Yet countries define cities differently, on the basis of a single criterion or a combination of criteria, which can include aspects such as population size or density (or both), economic function, the nature of activities (agricultural versus commercial), or the amount of locally generated income, as well as political and administrative measures. Informed guidelines on definitions, measurements and unified standards are necessary to ensure that the monitoring of and reporting on urban agendas and human settlements statistics follow harmonized and mutually agreed concepts. Without a single globally applicable definition of a city as the measurement unit for selected urban and human settlements indicators, countries are likely to compute estimates using various operational concepts, which could include the city core, urban agglomeration or metropolitan area, all of which use and apply different thresholds and methods, thereby making global comparisons difficult.

15. Over the past two decades, UN-Habitat as a focal point for urban issues has established various tools for global urban monitoring, which have contributed to the generation of urban data that are directly relevant for the monitoring of progress towards Goal 11. Such tools include the urban observatory model, the City Prosperity Initiative, the urban indicators programme and the national sample of cities approach. Many of the tools have been refined and modified in collaboration with other United Nations system entities in preparation for supporting the global monitoring of the Goals relating to urban matters. Some of those tools are discussed in greater detail below.

VI. Urban observatory model: mechanism for informed decision-making

16. With a view to finding creative solutions to the urban information crisis, UN-Habitat developed the urban observatory model for urban data collection and analysis, in partnership with cities.³ Systematic guidance on setting up urban observatories has been provided to a number of countries, leading to the development of a global network of local, national and regional urban observatories that facilitate data collection and the monitoring of processes at the local level, and the aggregation and/or comparison thereof at the national and regional levels.

17. Urban observatories are well-positioned to address the frequently expressed need for reliable, high resolution urban data sets specific to the cities and immediate

³ See <https://unhabitat.org/urban-knowledge/guo/>

city-regions in which they operate. They assist in the strengthening of urban data capacities at the national, subnational and local levels, providing platforms to facilitate effective knowledge exchange and promote evidence-based governance built on a shared knowledge base. At present, UN-Habitat is overseeing and coordinating 374 urban observatories worldwide: 101 in Africa, 143 in Asia and 130 in Latin America. Those local urban structures are leading engagement at the local level on collecting, analysing and interpreting data for urban indicators related to the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals relating to urban matters through consultative and inclusive processes. UN-Habitat channels all newly developed tools and guidelines through the local urban observatories.

18. At the time of writing, intensive training in the collection and production of indicators within the Sustainable Development Goal framework is taking place in several urban observatories. UN-Habitat has been working with several partners to enhance the capacities of many urban observatories to continue to play a central role in data collection and reporting on the Goals and the New Urban Agenda. This critical mass of urban observatories constitutes a very important asset for the monitoring of and reporting on the international urban agendas.

VII. A national sample of cities: a model approach to monitoring and reporting performance of cities at the national level

19. Many Sustainable Development Goals indicators relating to urban matters require data collection at the local and/or city level. Countries are therefore compelled to define and identify the number of cities they have, to collect data on all those cities and, at the national level, to aggregate the data in terms of the average performance of these city-specific indicators. For many countries, it is not possible to collect information and report on all their cities, and this is particularly true for those that have limited resources (financial, institutional, human and systems). In such cases, UN-Habitat recommends the application of the national sample of cities approach, which will allow for the systematic selection of a sample of representative cities and for the continuous tracking of progress in those cities for reporting at the national level.⁴

20. The national sample of cities is a carefully constructed sample of cities that considers subregional and city-specific characteristics and variances in order to monitor the dominant urban patterns in a given country. The sample is one of the mechanisms that will create conditions to monitor and report on a consistent set of cities, which can enable countries to produce time series analysis to measure national progress in a more systematic and scientific manner. The sample of cities must be drawn up using sound statistical and scientific methodologies (see para. 22 below).

21. Data collection across all indicators for Goal 11 requires significant resources, ranging from financial, institutional and human resources to investing in new systems. Assessments undertaken by several custodian agencies, including UN-Habitat, since 2016, revealed that most countries face challenges as regards the level of resources available to support quality data systems and of resources to support the monitoring of all indicators for Goal 11. However, a few countries, in developed regions in particular, have well-established urban data collection structures and enough resources to cover all the needs of monitoring and reporting on progress towards Goal 11 for all their urban areas and/or cities.

22. In order to support countries with limited resources in their systematic data collection on Goal 11 indicators, UN-Habitat and other partners developed the

⁴ See <https://unhabitat.org/national-sample-of-cities/>.

national sample of cities approach. The approach helps countries to select a non-biased sample of representative cities. The national sample of cities is drawn up using sound statistical and scientific methodologies based on, among other factors, national importance, geographic location, size of the city, population of the city, economic and political importance, or the representation of youth and/or children and women. The advantages and main steps proposed for the selection of a national sample of cities are set out in the annex to the present report.

VIII. The City Prosperity index: an efficient tool for measuring the performance of cities using comprehensive urban data analytics

23. A commitment to partnership and cooperation, supported by a strong monitoring mechanism that measures policies and investments based on close to real-time evidence, will be required to meet the challenge of creating inclusive growth and sustainable urban development. Such a mechanism should serve to prioritize activities, ensure strategic investments, monitor the coverage of plans and measure the impact at the national, regional (territorial and municipal levels) and global levels. UN-Habitat has developed a global monitoring framework, known as the City Prosperity Initiative, that enables Member States to monitor and evaluate their efforts towards the implementation of the urban components of the sustainable development agenda, from the domestic and the international perspectives, by using a unified and sound mechanism that measures success and assesses failures at different government levels.

24. The City Prosperity Initiative integrates tools and mechanisms for monitoring progress towards Goal 11 and other indicators relating to urban matters that are aligned with international and national guidance on gender, youth and human rights monitoring strategies at all levels. Specifically, tools such as the national sample of cities methodology are well integrated into the City Prosperity Initiative, which allows for the measurement and assessment of urban performance in a representative manner. Already, UN-Habitat has been working with the City Prosperity index, which is one element of the City Prosperity Initiative for monitoring the performance of cities at the global level with a core set of indicators that track inclusiveness, such as monitoring urban infrastructure, the environment or productivity. In addition, City Prosperity index indicators such as access to adequate housing, water and sanitation, access to quality education and access to the Internet, as well as the participation of citizens, or any other civic, cultural, economic, political and social right metrics, are directly linked to many human rights agendas. Through the national sample of cities, the local and national monitoring of youth, gender and human rights inclusiveness aspects will be strengthened. While the global indicator framework adopted by the General Assembly is the authoritative list of indicators for the global monitoring of Goal 11, the index provides complementary information and analysis to that obtained through the global indicator framework. It can be used as an additional tool in the process of implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

25. The City Prosperity index integrates indicators for Sustainable Development Goals relating to urban matters, to address in a single framework the environmental, social and economic components of city prosperity and sustainability. Indeed, all 10 targets and indicators of Goal 11 are integrated in the index. The index therefore has the potential to be a global monitoring platform for Goal 11 indicators and other Goals with an urban component. It is estimated that around one third of indicators relating to urban matters can be measured at the local level, having a direct connection to urban policies, and a clear impact on cities and human settlements. In addition, 23 per

cent of all Sustainable Development Goal targets that can be measured at the local level are covered by the index. Countries that apply the index are able to identify, quantify, evaluate, monitor and report on progress at the national and city levels towards achieving Goal 11. To date, UN-Habitat has supported more than 400 cities across the world in implementing the index. Experiences from deploying the index show that countries and cities that have adopted this unified and standardized platform for the monitoring of and reporting on urban indicators are saving time and resources.

26. The adoption by national statistical offices of an integrated approach for city measurements through the index offers the following advantages:

- (a) It provides a single indicator of the state of the city;
- (b) It establishes benchmarks for local, national and global monitoring;
- (c) It creates a baseline and information regarding the city;
- (d) It generates a local monitoring mechanism;
- (e) It identifies priorities and transformative actions for achieving sustainable urban development.⁸

IX. Spatial data integration into the monitoring framework for Goal 11

27. Depending on the local context, at least seven indicators for Goal 11 require data collection at the city level using non-conventional methods that go beyond censuses or household surveys. A common feature cutting across the non-traditional sources of data required for those indicators is the inclusion of a spatial component, whether as the main unit of analysis or a determinant of indicator results. Indicator 11.3.1, for example, adopts spatial metrics as one of its main units of analysis (rate at which land is consumed by urban growth), while results for indicator 11.6.2 greatly vary from one area of a city to another based on the concentration of air pollution intensity. Geospatial techniques offer countries effective systems for the integrated management of (spatially referenced) data across all areas of development, and advances in geospatial science – with more open source applications and data sets – create a unique opportunity for countries and cities to collect and/or compile data at higher spatial and temporal resolution, as well as to generate information that is more visual and connected to the physical space, which is essential for informed decision-making.

28. Since 2014, UN-Habitat has established partnerships with diverse stakeholders working in the geospatial field to support the development of modern approaches to urban data generation, to leverage the resources of the geospatial community for enhanced generation of data relevant to Goal 11, and to continuously ensure that the appropriate technologies, approaches and methods are channelled to countries and cities. Some of the key partnerships established include those with the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management, the scientific arms of the European Commission (the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy and the Joint Research Centre), the European Space Agency, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Group on Earth Observations and the African Earth Observation community, among others. In addition, collaborations have been established with entities within countries working on geospatial data to pilot various data collection tools at the local level, and with national statistical offices for the incorporation of related technologies into the conventional data architecture.

⁸ See <http://cpi.unhabitat.org>.

29. In order to support the generation of data on the spatially dependent indicators for Goal 11, UN-Habitat and partners have developed several tools that utilize both commercial and openly available data sources (e.g., satellite imagery) and applications (software). Some of these include step-by-step training manuals on indicator computations and executable applications for automated workflows, which are openly available to countries and cities. The tools have been shared with countries during various regional workshops and have been directly piloted in partnership with national statistical offices and country-based spatial data agencies in Botswana, Colombia and Tunisia, among other countries. In addition, UN-Habitat has developed technical documents that explain how each indicator measures a specific component linked to sustainable development and how policies should respond to reported indicator values so as to achieve progress towards the related goals.

30. While there has been progress towards the adoption and implementation of geospatial data technologies, along with an acknowledgement of the importance of the technologies to future data structures, the prevailing legal and policy frameworks in many countries are still lacking as regards regulating this approach and related outcomes, especially with regard to the incorporation of data collected using such methods into official statistics. In addition, many countries are facing challenges, such as a lack of resources to put in place the proper systems or limited capacities in human resources, as well as those related to the lack of, or high costs associated with, the generation of spatially referenced baseline data. UN-Habitat is working in collaboration with other United Nations system entities and partners to support countries in those areas, with a series of workshops and training sessions planned and some already completed. Other strategic partnerships are being established with various service providers of relevant systems and/or software, for example, with the Environmental Systems Research Institute, for the provision of direct support to cities.

X. City definition

31. Several targets and indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals refer directly to cities as the units of measurement, moving away from the traditional reference to urban areas that also cover cities in particular. Among the many questions that have been asked since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, where some indicators refer directly to the unit of a city, are questions about what exactly constitutes a city or an urban area; what the size threshold is for an area to qualify as a city; what type of administrative, legal or historical status defines a city; and how to distinguish an urban area from a town or a village. A global definition of the city as a unit of analysis and for monitoring purposes is critical to overcoming challenges as regards comparing the performance of cities. But even at the urban level, a tighter global definition of what constitutes urban, away from rural areas is needed for the purposes of global monitoring and reporting. For example, some countries define their urban areas using a population threshold, or an administrative demarcation, or population density, or the economic function of an area, while others use a combination of the above criteria. Thresholds for each criterion vary widely depending on country-specific guidelines and local definitions. Equally, a diversity of concepts is often used interchangeably to refer to a form of urban area. Examples of such terms include "city proper", "urban agglomeration" or "metropolitan area", each of which represents a different kind of functional urban entity. A concrete guidance on concepts, measurements and unified standards is necessary to ensure that the international community works with harmonized and mutually agreed notions regarding city and urban definitions.

32. UN-Habitat, in line with its custodian role for several indicators that depend on and require a definition of a city, has worked with various institutions and organizations globally towards agreeing on a global definition of a city. The intent is not to change how countries define their urban areas but rather to support the global monitoring and reporting in a more systematic and harmonized manner. Global consultations and expert group meetings organized by UN-Habitat and its partners have led to the narrowing down to two city definitions, which give a good perspective for global monitoring of selected Goal 11 indicators, the unit of analysis/measurement for which is the "city". The two proposed definitions are:

(a) City as defined by its urban extent: the urban extent represents the total built-up area and urbanized open spaces. Built-up areas are defined as the contiguous areas occupied by buildings and other impervious surfaces, classified in three levels based on the share of built-up density (urban-ness) in a 1 km² circle around a given point: urban built-up area (greater than 50 per cent density); suburban built-up area (between 25 and 50 per cent density) and rural built-up area (less than 25 per cent density);⁶

(b) City as defined by its degree of urbanization – a classification that indicates the character of an area based on its population size, density and contiguity of settlements in units categorized as "local administrative units, level 2", distinguishing three settlement types: densely, intermediate and thinly populated areas.

XI. Progress on supporting countries in reporting on human settlements indicators

33. UN-Habitat remains a custodian agency for a large set of indicators under Goal 11. Major challenges arise in the monitoring of and reporting on Goal 11, which do not arise in the context of monitoring and reporting for other Goals. A mixed bag of approaches has been proposed for addressing the data needs for Sustainable Development Goal indicators relating to city and/or urban matters, in particular where the city is the unit of analysis. Of the 15 or more such indicators, data for the following seven indicators are being collected at the local city level and not by routine data collection mechanisms such as censuses or household surveys: 11.2.1 on public transport; 11.3.1 on land consumption; 11.3.2 on civil society participation; 11.5.1 on people affected by disasters; 11.6.1 on urban solid waste; 11.6.2 on air quality; and 11.7.1 on public space. In addition, among the 15 indicators, seven require some form of spatial data collection and analysis at the local and/or urban level, with a clear method at the urban agglomeration level: 11.2.1 on public transport; 11.3.1 on land consumption; 11.5.1 on people affected by disasters; 11.6.1 on urban solid waste; 11.7.1 on public space; and 11.b.1 on climate change and resilience.

34. Of the 15 indicators for Goal 11, six require special aggregation techniques to generate the desired data at the national level from city-based data. In some instances, where countries have many cities, this requires working with a representative national sample of cities for each country selected, in such a manner that it reflects the country's territory, geography and history, as well as any other dimensions as discussed in section VII. In addition, some cities and countries recognize the difficulty of integrating a city-wide approach in policy formulation when monitoring and reporting on Goal 11 indicators that are very sectoral in nature. This is even further complicated by the silo approach of ministries and government departments in many Member States' governance systems. UN-Habitat has been working with

⁶ See www.atlasofurbanexpansion.org/data.

many partners and Member States to finalize relevant guidelines that offer solutions to such challenges.

35. All countries that have succeeded in reporting on the human settlements indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals have noted the value of having national statistical systems coordinate with local authorities and service providers to collect information at the city level as the unit of analysis, using conventional (e.g., studies and surveys in communities and municipalities) and modern (satellite imagery and information and communications technology) forms of data collection techniques. The use of innovative geospatial tools in data collection systems, including censuses and surveys to measure and to track the performance of cities towards many Sustainable Development Goal targets relating to urban matters is new for many national statistical offices and institutions. Equally, the aggregation of city-level data for reporting performance at the national/country level is new and of paramount importance to many national statistical offices.

XII. Distinguishing slum from non-slum areas

36. UN-Habitat continues to advocate for and monitor the global populations who live in slums. At present, UN-Habitat estimates show that nearly a billion people live in areas generally referred to as slums, in accordance with the UN-Habitat definition thereof. "Any specific place, whether a whole city, or a neighbourhood, is a slum area if half or more of all households lack improved water, improved sanitation, sufficient living area, durable housing, secure tenure, or combinations thereof." A significant hindrance to making slum dwellers count remains an apparent lack of a global definition of what characterizes a "slum area" and ensuring that this definition is mainstreamed in all global data collection processes (surveys, censuses, etc.) through labels directly attached to enumeration areas within the national sampling frames.

37. UN-Habitat continues to spearhead further refinements in definitions of slum areas, and to institute work with several national statistical offices on testing the concept of detecting slums areas through three modalities: (a) innovative digital-based satellite imagery analysis, coupled with ground-truthing and local observation techniques, as well as slum space mapping; (b) census-based slum mapping at enumeration area level, leveraging existing census data and applying the definition of a slum at household level; and (c) incorporating slum area definitions into the upcoming 2020 round of population and housing censuses by assigning the categories "slum", "non-slum" and "rural" area to each enumeration area.

38. Ultimately, the process outlined above will allow surveys and other data collection processes in low and middle-income countries to examine differences in services, access, housing and deprivations across slum and non-slum urban areas. Examining such area-based differences will help in the formal recognition of the fact that slum challenges are not the same as urban challenges, thereby improving visibility for a currently marginalized and vulnerable slum population, which is aligned with the spirit of leaving no one behind.

XIII. Conclusion and recommendations

39. The challenges of collecting and monitoring human settlements statistics appear to constrain the ability of policymakers in government and of leaders to formulate effective national urban and human settlements development policies and to guide evidence-based urbanization. The emergence of new sets of indicators dependent on spatial analysis technologies and systems may constrain the ability of many countries to report, until 2020 at least. However, many countries have now updated their human

settlements and urban indicators databases, but the collection of data for some of the new and spatially challenging indicators will require a significant amount of time, from the data collection phase at the lowest layers of cities to the aggregation thereof at the national level.

40. Considering the above, both capacity-building and resources will need to be scaled up in order to build data systems that offer alignments in data collection processes such as in methodological development work, including by addressing definitions of new urban concepts. It is also essential to enhance political, legal and institutional frameworks, as well as financial support, at the local level. Goal 11 has 10 targets and 15 associated indicators on which cities and national governments need to report. In addition, most of the 234 indicators associated with the Goals have a direct connection to urban policies and a clear impact on cities and human settlements.

41. The monitoring of and reporting on progress towards Goal 11 presents major challenges that need to be addressed at the global, national and local levels. Many countries acknowledge the challenges related to the implementation of Goal 11 and are requesting technical support for effective monitoring and reporting. Over the past four years, the custodian agencies have witnessed an increased demand from Member States and local governments for technical support related to building their capacities to collect, analyse and draw policy formulation from their local data.

42. As a result, UN-Habitat and other custodian agencies have invested a significant amount of time and resources in supporting Member States to set up the required monitoring systems for Goal 11. Custodian agencies have developed new and relevant guides and materials and have clarified definitions that are needed for global urban monitoring concerning that Goal, in collaboration with various stakeholders.

43. A few Sustainable Development Goal indicators relating to urban matters require the reporting territorial level of the city as a unique entity of analysis. Several of the indicators for Goal 11 must be collected and/or computed at the city level, although the monitoring and/or reporting will be done at the national level. Agreeing on an operational definition of a city from a statistical and spatial perspective has been a major preoccupation of the many expert group meetings organized by UN-Habitat and partners over the past two years. The issue has also been a major factor in decisions of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators on whether to reclassify some indicators from tier III to tier II. Following concerted rounds of discussions with partners and custodian agencies, two global definitions of cities are now available, as set out in paragraph 32 above. The definitions will support the global monitoring on and reporting of the performances of cities in a more systematic way. It is important to note, however, that a common definition does not mean that countries will have to change how they define a city or urban area in their own countries.

44. UN-Habitat will continue working with local urban observatories worldwide as the local interlocutors for urban data collection and for integrating evidence directly into the formulation of local urban policies and plans. Observatories in high- and middle-income countries have the resources, both technical and financial, to sustain the roll-out and implementation of urban monitoring in relation to the Goals. New tools for enhancing the capacities and knowledge of observatories on monitoring of progress towards the Goals have been shared through regional workshops, in order to disseminate the new tools to urban observatories, and the subsequent feedback was used to address and refine the tools.

45. The City Prosperity Initiative, a flexible framework for the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies and practices on sustainable development to increase prosperity levels in cities, can be leveraged for monitoring Goal 11 indicators as it integrates indicators for Goals relating to urban matters in order to

address in a single framework the environmental, social and economic components of city sustainability. Countries and cities that have adopted the Initiative for the monitoring of and reporting on urban indicators in the context of the Goals are saving time and resources.

46. Despite significant progress in developing the monitoring tools and methods for Goal 11, further work is needed, especially in terms of applying them to all countries in all regions. Localizing the urban monitoring tools sometimes requires a few refinements, which UN-Habitat and partners are addressing in parallel. It will take time for results to materialize from capacity-building efforts aimed at aligning data collection processes and methodological work, including definitions of concepts to the requirements of Goal 11. As such, for the next two years, additional resources will be needed in order to allow custodian agencies to reinforce their coordination and to support efficient monitoring. It is necessary to enhance political, legal and institutional frameworks, as well as financial support, at the local level.

47. At the city level, urban management and development processes involve many actors and at different levels (political bodies at the national, subnational and local levels), and in a few countries work continues directly with national authorities to demonstrate how this should be done for urban monitoring. Given that different stakeholders are involved in the production of various supporting indicators required for monitoring progress towards Goal 11, it is recommended that the role of urban observatories as focal points for urban data and reporting be enhanced. In addition, a formalized coordination mechanism involving all data producers, with a clear mandate and specified role and responsibility at all levels, is required.

48. Many countries are facing challenges associated with policy frameworks and the integration of data generated from alternative sources. Despite the sources being proven to be reliable and accurate, and the data offering important information that can influence policies in support of sustainability, such data cannot, in certain circumstances, be incorporated into official statistics, as required for the monitoring framework. While some countries cite the lack of clear verification mechanisms for specific sets of data (such as those collected by communities), others acknowledge that sources such as those based on geospatial analysis provide accurate and up-to-date data, which can complement conventional statistics. There is a need to develop guidelines as to how countries can streamline and update their data collection processes in line with modern approaches, such as those required as part of the monitoring framework for the Goals, which should be attained through multi-stakeholder engagement methods.

XIV. Points for discussion

49. **The Commission may wish to:**

- (a) **Endorse the adoption of the national sample of cities methodology for countries that are constrained in terms of the national monitoring of and reporting on all cities for which data are available;**
- (b) **Endorse the creation of a group of experts for the revision of the guidelines and principles for the implementation of the City Prosperity index;**
- (c) **Endorse the creation of a group of experts for the development of guidelines for identifying slums and non-slum enumeration areas;**
- (d) **Comment on challenges related to the definition of the city, including on the disaggregation of data by type of human settlement (urban, rural, and**

slum versus non-slum urban), especially in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(c) Comment on the most effective coordination mechanism for the work on human settlements statistics at the international level.

Annex

Advantages and description of the main steps proposed for the selection of a national sample of cities

1. The procedures set out below describe the main steps proposed for the selection of a national sample of cities:

(a) A complete listing of all cities in a country is compiled creating a national sampling frame of cities;

(b) Relevant city descriptive data are collected for each city (geographical location, population size, categorization in terms of importance, number of women/youth, etc.);

(c) Cities are grouped using major categories of interest defined at the national level and a simple random sampling of cities applied in each category;

(d) A final list of sampled cities is reviewed and agreed upon by selected stakeholders under the guidance of the national statistical office.

2. The adoption of a national sample of cities offers the following advantages:

(a) It integrates cities of all sizes, functions and types as part of a national system of cities that can help to amalgamate the disjointed energies and potential of urban centres;

(b) It assists in the aggregation of locally produced city indicators for national monitoring and reporting, and for the production of regional and global reports and analysis;

(c) It provides a platform for collecting different layers of data with a unified methodology that can be used to report on national progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals or other elements of the urban agenda;

(d) It allows the calculation of an unweighted national average as well as weighted national averages on the overall Sustainable Development Goal indicators relating to urban matters;

(e) It creates baseline data and establishes benchmarks and national targets with the same technique of standardization, which will enable comparisons of indicators and city measurements;

(f) It facilitates a systematic disaggregation of information at the national, subnational and city levels along key Sustainable Development Goal indicators and in line with the dimensions of development needed to address territorial disparities.

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Items for discussion and decision: crimes statistics**Report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on crime and criminal justice statistics****Note by the Secretary-General**

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2018/227 and past practices, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on crime and criminal justice statistics. The report reviews the progress made in the implementation of activities included in the report of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on a road map to improve the quality and availability of crime statistics at the national and international levels (E/CN.3/2013/11), which was submitted to the Statistical Commission at its forty-fourth session, held in New York from 26 February to 1 March 2013 (and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-second session, held in Vienna from 22 to 26 April 2013. Both commissions welcomed the report on the road map and expressed support for the activities proposed therein.

UNODC and INEGI submitted a review of the implementation of activities included in the road map (E/CN.3/2015/8) to the Statistical Commission at its forty-sixth session, held in New York from 3 to 6 March 2015, including a review of major accomplishments achieved since the submission of the initial report and a proposed five-year workplan (2015–2020) to foster the implementation of the road map. The Commission welcomed the progress made on the activities established in the road map and reconfirmed it (E/2015/24, chap. I.C, decision 46/103, para. (e)).

The present report, prepared for the fiftieth session of the Statistical Commission, reviews the accomplishments attained since the submission of the previous report and proposes an updated road map with a new workplan and a broader set of activities aimed at the continuing improvement of the quality and availability of crime and criminal justice statistics, as highlighted in the original road map. The updated road map both responds to new priorities which emerged with the agreed targets and indicators under the Sustainable Development Goals; and continues to sustain a balance between initiatives that aim at developing and improving the

* E/CN.3/2019/1.



methodology for measuring hidden forms of crime and initiatives designed to improve existing national statistical systems on crime. The present, like that on the previous version of the road map, reflects a holistic vision for the improvement of crime and criminal justice statistics at global level, including activities for which resources either have already, or have not yet, been identified.

The Statistical Commission is invited to welcome the achievements in the field of crime and criminal justice statistics and to provide guidelines as regards the statistical soundness and feasibility of future activities whose aim is to implement the updated road map, so as to improve crime and criminal justice statistics at national, regional and global levels.

Report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on crime and criminal justice statistics

I. The road map as a contribution to monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals

1. The original road map, as developed in 2013, set out a vision for improving evidence-based policies on violence, rule of law and access to justice and proposed a conceptual and operational framework for improving crime and criminal justice statistics at the national and international levels. The road map proposed activities and initiatives in three main areas: development of methodological tools, capacity-building and international data collection and analysis; and also outlined a framework to support and strengthen work towards its implementation at the international level.

2. The original road map was further developed during the post-2015 development debate when the subject of the framework of goals, targets and statistical indicators was still under discussion. While the inclusion of objectives related to peace, justice and institutions was high in the agenda from the early stages of the debate, the specific statistical needs related to the Sustainable Development Goals became clearer only at a later stage.

3. The adoption by the General Assembly of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹ and the accompanying Sustainable Development Goals on 25 September 2015 confirmed the integral status accorded to issues related to violence and crime prevention, the fight against organized crime (including trafficking in persons, wildlife trafficking and trafficking of firearms), illicit financial flows and corruption, and the promotion of the rule of law and access to justice, both in their own right and as enabling factors for the achievement of other sustainable development objectives (see table 1).

Table 1
Policy areas in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related targets and indicators relevant to crime and criminal justice statistics

Policy area	Target	Indicator
Violence reduction and crime prevention	16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere	16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age
		16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to (a) physical violence, (b) psychological violence and (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months
		16.1.4 Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area where they live
	16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children	16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation

¹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

<i>Policy area</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Indicator</i>
	11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities	11.7.2 Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months
	5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation	5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age 5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence
Organized crime and illicit trafficking	16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime	16.4.1 Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars) 16.4.2 Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments
	15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products	15.7.1 Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked
Access to justice, corruption and rule of law	16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all	16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms 16.3.2 Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population
	16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms	16.5.1 Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months

<i>Policy area</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Indicator</i>
		16.5.2 Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months

4. While the road map referred to all of the above topics, the proposed global indicator framework for the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (see E/CN.3/2016/2 Rev.1), with which the Statistical Commission agreed at its forty-seventh session on 11 March 2016 (see E/2016/24, chap. I.B, decision 47/101, para. (d)), gave a major impetus to several work streams on crime and criminal justice statistics, particularly those related to Sustainable Development Goal indicators on crime, violence (including violence against women and against children), trafficking in persons, access to justice, corruption, illicit financial flows, firearms trafficking and wildlife crime for which UNODC is the custodian or co-custodian agency.

II. Progress and achievements in implementation of the road map since 2015

5. Since the previous report on the implementation of the road map 2015 (E/CN.3/2015/8), several initiatives have been undertaken towards accomplishing its objectives. This work has been made possible through the active collaboration and support of many actors at the national, regional and global levels. Table 2 presents some of the main activities conducted in the period 2015–2018, under the main pillars of the workplan, namely, development of methodological tools, capacity-building, and international data collection and analysis. A more detailed review is provided in the annex to the present report.

Table 2
Achievements in road map implementation since 2015

<i>Methodological development</i>	<i>Capacity-building</i>	<i>International data collection and analysis</i>
• <i>Manual on Corruption Surveys</i> • Development of methodology for Sustainable Development Goal indicators: – Multiple-systems estimation for calculation of the number of victims of trafficking in persons – Methodology for indicator on firearm tracing	• Strengthening of regional centres of excellence on crime and criminal justice statistics • Training activities on the implementation of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes and improvement of administrative data on crime and criminal justice at regional and country levels	• Revision of global data collection on crime and criminal justice and strengthening of the network of national focal points and regional synergies • Expansion of the homicide statistics database and production of the <i>Global Study on Homicide 2019</i> • Global data collection and database on

<i>Methodological development</i>	<i>Capacity-building</i>	<i>International data collection and analysis</i>
– Initial steps taken to define statistical standards for measurement of illicit financial flows – Regional methodology for victimization surveys in Latin America (Latin American and the Caribbean Crime Victimization Survey Initiative)	• Support for the conduct of victimization and corruption surveys • Development of regional partnerships for technical assistance • Support to countries on the collection, dissemination and development of indicators for monitoring Sustainable Development Goal targets on crime and violence, illicit flows and organized crime, access to justice, rule of law and corruption • Support to countries for implementing multiple systems estimation • Training on statistical systems for firearm trafficking	trafficking in persons and protected species – New global data collections and database on illicit firearms and wildlife trafficking – <i>Global Reports on Trafficking in Persons</i> (2016, 2018) and first <i>Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants</i> (2018) – <i>World Wildlife Crime Report: Trafficking in Protected Species</i> 2016

III. An updated road map

6. As outlined above (and in greater detail in the annex), significant progress has been achieved in the implementation of the road map; further, the foundations have been laid for the preparation of future statistical activities and for support to countries in the production of the high-quality data needed to monitor the 2030 Agenda. The role of many UNODC partners continues to be crucial to the implementation of the workplan, ranging from the UNODC-Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) Centre of Excellence in Statistical Information on Government, Crime, Victimization and Justice which will continue to implement capacity-building activities and support the development of methodological standards, to other national, regional and global partners. The following workplan, which spans the period 2019–2022, is structured around four main pillars: development of methodological tools, capacity development, international data collection and analysis, and strengthening the international framework for the implementation of the road map. Activities under the workplan comprise those that can be covered with existing resources and others for which additional funds need to be secured.

A. Development of methodological tools

7. The improvement of methodologies for measuring crime and criminal justice systems will continue to form a cornerstone of quantitative research work promoted by UNODC (see table 3). Pursuant to the identification of three policy areas in the 2030 Agenda, this work stream aims at completing the set of standards and guidelines that can support countries in producing comparable and up-to-date statistics on crime

and various forms of violence, access to justice, rule of law, corruption, organized crime and different forms of trafficking (including trafficking in persons, wildlife trafficking, trafficking of firearms and smuggling of migrants) and their related illicit financial flows.

8. The implementation of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) remains a priority; and in this regard, the finalization of the ICCS implementation manual will provide national authorities with comprehensive and operational guidance on how to fully utilize the potential of ICCS. Based on the presentation and discussion of the first draft of the manual at the joint Second Meeting of Focal Points for the United Nations Surveys on Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and of members of the Technical Advisory Group on the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes in June 2018,² the ICCS implementation manual will be finalized during 2019. In 2020, a broad assessment of ICCS implementation at country level will be conducted with a view to identifying and promoting good practices, identifying challenges and bottlenecks, promoting the concrete benefits of ICCS implementation to data quality, relevance and comparability, and providing further methodological and operational guidance to national authorities involved in work related to crime and criminal justice statistics. The assessment will also aim at identifying gaps in ICCS and considering the future need for initiation of a process of ICCS revision. At country level, the assessment should be led by national statistical offices and identified national focal points according to guidelines developed by ICCS Technical Advisory Group.

9. So that better data on violence against women can be produced, a statistical framework will be developed on gender-sensitive crime statistics, with a focus on gender-related homicides. Using ICCS as a foundation this work, to be conducted jointly with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and other international partners, will place a focus on gender-related homicides ("femicides") and aim towards providing operational guidelines on production of data on victims, perpetrators and state responses.

10. The methodological toolkit on victimization surveys will also be strengthened. Victimization surveys are a primary tool for collecting data on several forms of crime, as well as on victims, perpetrators, and protective and risk factors. Some experiments have also demonstrated the potential of using victimization surveys to produce indirect estimates of rare crimes such as homicide, although more research and testing are needed to finetune these techniques. Operational guidelines for victimization surveys will be developed in the following areas:

- Measurement of cybercrime as experienced by household members
- Measurement of physical and sexual harassment (under Sustainable Development Goal indicator 11.7.2: Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months)
- Survey modules for indirect estimation of homicide, kidnapping and forced disappearance
- Computation of selected Sustainable Development Goal indicators through victimization surveys

² See the report of the Joint Second Meeting of Focal Points for the United Nations Surveys on Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and of members of the Technical Advisory Group on the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes, held in Lima on 7 and 8 June 2018. Available at <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/statistics/joint-second-uncts-iccs-meeting.html>.

Some of these activities will be conducted within the framework of the Latin American and the Caribbean Crime Victimization Survey Initiative, the standard methodology for crime victimization surveys developed by the UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence together with countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.³ Further, UNODC, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) support an initiative whose aim is to develop a survey module on Goal 16 in order to provide countries with an additional tool with which to produce survey-based indicators in the areas of peace, access to justice, rule of law and effective institutions according to a standard validated methodology.

11. Trafficking in persons is a form of violence whose measurement is particularly challenging. In this regard, the new multiple systems estimation (MSE) methodology aims at measuring the number of undetected victims of trafficking in persons within a given country. This methodology has, to date, been successfully piloted in a few countries and has shown its full potential in estimating the true size of the trafficking-in-persons phenomenon for monitoring SDG indicator 16.2.2 (Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation).⁴ In order to assist countries in rolling out this methodology, further testing will be carried out and two manuals will be developed: on developing and maintaining statistical databases on victims of trafficking in persons and on the application of the statistical technique. In addition to MSE, there is a survey method for assessing the extent of trafficking in persons for forced labour which will be jointly developed by UNODC and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

12. Monitoring of the transnational facet of crime will be improved through further development of methodological tools for measuring organized crime. Basing its efforts on a model developed by the UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence and tested in selected countries of Latin America, UNODC is currently assisting countries in the Balkan region in developing a statistical framework for measuring organized crime under the European Union-funded project on measuring and assessing organized crime in the western Balkans (MACRO). On the basis of this experience and the testing in Latin America, a consultation process will begin on global statistical standards for measuring organized crime.

13. A priority highlighted within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals is the measurement of illicit financial flows (as reflected by SDG indicator 16.4.1: Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows) for which UNODC is co-custodian together with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). UNODC and UNCTAD have been working together to develop an initial framework for measuring illicit financial flows for statistical purposes. Within this common framework, it has become clear that the computation of those flows requires different methodologies depending on the source that generates them. Three distinct classes of activities that generate illicit financial flows have been identified: those linked to illicit tax and financial practices, those linked to illicit markets (e.g., for drugs, trafficking in persons, and counterfeit goods) and those linked to corruption

³ This group of countries included Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama and Peru. Besides UNODC and the UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence, it was also supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Organization of American States, the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Regional System of Standardized Indicators in Peaceful Coexistence and Citizen Security.

⁴ The methodology makes use of administrative records on trafficking victims kept by national authorities and non-governmental organizations; through a capture-recapture statistical technique, it can produce national estimates on total numbers of victims of trafficking (detected and undetected).

and theft-related crimes.⁵ The methodology for estimating illicit financial flows will follow these three typologies. The testing of some of the methodological procedures for estimating the flows related to illicit markets will be conducted in volunteer countries of Latin America in 2019.⁶ The standard methodologies for the two areas related to crime (illicit markets; and corruption and theft-related crime) will be finalized within the next two to three years through regional and global consultations with national statistical offices, financial information units, academics and other stakeholders who can provide inside knowledge on the measurement of illicit financial flows.

14. Another area of research where there is a great demand for standard methodologies encompasses access to justice, rule of law and corruption measurement. The existing Sustainable Development Goal indicators on access to justice (16.3.1 and 16.3.2) need to be complemented by an integrated statistical framework for measuring dimensions of accessibility, efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of justice through the use of both administrative and survey data. A minimum set of indicators on effectiveness and accessibility of justice was included in the revision of data collection on crime and criminal justice (through United Nations Surveys on Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems) in 2017 but additional methodological work is needed to assist countries in collecting data more systematically on issues such as legal aid, use of non-custodial sentences and duration of pre-trial detention. The use of access-to-justice modules in household surveys is a promising approach which needs further development.

15. Building on the recently launched *Manual on Corruption Surveys: Methodological Guidelines on the Measurement of Bribery and Other Forms of Corruption through Sample Surveys*,⁷ further developmental work is envisaged to provide guidelines on how to generate statistical information on forms of corruption which extend beyond bribery and State responses to it. Besides coverage by the existing Manual of bribery affecting the population (see Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.5.1) and the business sector (see Goal indicator 16.5.2), there will be testing of the measurement of other forms of corruption (e.g., nepotism; and favouritism in civil service recruitment and in public procurement) through the use of sample surveys, will be tested. Furthermore, the measurement of other forms of corruption (such as that involving large sums or assets, which is often referred to as "grand corruption"), of vulnerabilities to corruption and of the overall extent and efficiency of State responses to corruption will require additional methodological work.

16. Some attempts have been made to use big data to assess the level of crime. Data such as telephone records on geographical intercommunications and bank records on payments have been used to estimate the level of crime in certain geographical areas. Further testing will be undertaken to facilitate an understanding of the potential of big data to produce statistical information on crime. The aim is to evaluate whether the analysis of big data can provide an efficient tool with which to complement the use of traditional data sources and whether big data can generate contextual information that cannot be generated by traditional sources. The results of the testing will be incorporated in an assessment study on the use of big data for statistical crime analysis.

⁵ Under a common statistical framework, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is responsible for developing the methodology on illicit financial flows related to illicit tax practices, while UNODC will lead the work in the other two areas.

⁶ Under the Development Account project on developing indicators on illicit financial flows and monitoring them in Latin America.

⁷ Produced jointly by UNODC, the UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence and UNDP.

Table 3
Updated road map: summary of methodological tools

<i>Activities to be implemented with existing resources</i>			<i>Planned activities needing additional resources</i>		
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
ICCS implementation manual	UNODC ICCS Technical Advisory Group	2019			
Assessment of ICCS implementation	UNODC, ICCS Technical Advisory Group, National statistical offices UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence	2020			
			Operational guidelines on gender-relevant crime statistics: definition of a comprehensive statistical framework on gender-relevant crime statistics	UNODC UN-Women UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence	2019–2020
Operational guidelines for victimization surveys: covering new topics and survey modules (cybercrime, physical and sexual harassment (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 11.7.2), homicide, kidnapping, forced disappearance)	UNODC UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence Member States Regional organizations UNDP	2019–2022			
Development of a Sustainable Development Goal 16 survey module	UNODC UNDP OHCHR	2019			
Guidelines for the measurement of illicit financial flows: development of a methodology to measure Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.4.1 on illicit financial flows in relation to selected illegal markets	UNODC UNCTAD, UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence	2019–2020	Guidelines for the measurement of illicit financial flows in relation to additional criminal activities: development of a methodology for measuring Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.4.1 on illicit financial flows in relation to additional criminal activities	UNODC UNCTAD UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence	2021–2022

<i>Activities to be implemented with existing resources</i>			<i>Planned activities needing additional resources</i>		
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
Manuals on the use of the multiple systems estimation (MSE) methods for trafficking in persons: part I: creating and maintaining statistical databases on victims of trafficking in persons: part II: application of the statistical MSE technique	UNODC	2019–2020	Sustainable Development Goal indicators: further testing and extension of survey methods for measuring trafficking in persons	UNODC ILO	2020–2022
Corruption surveys: expand methodological tools to measurement of other forms of corruption, including grand corruption	UNODC ICCS Technical Advisory Group UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence Eurostat Member States	2020–2022	Guidelines on the measurement of organized crime: to be developed after testing of the current statistical framework for measuring organized crime	UNODC UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence	2019–2021
			Assessment study on the use of big data for statistical crime analysis	UNODC UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence	2019–2021
			Access to justice and efficiency of the criminal justice system: development of standard indicators based on administrative and survey data	UNODC UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence	2021–2022

B. Capacity-building

17. Capacity-building activities are essential to strengthening national mechanisms for production and dissemination of crime and criminal justice statistics, which, in many countries, are still weak owing to a combination of factors including lack of resources, coordination and technical skills (see table 4). The demand for technical assistance and training activities on crime and criminal justice statistics has grown markedly in the last few years, as related to the adoption and implementation of new standards such as ICCS and the Latin American and the Caribbean Crime Victimization Survey Initiative, and the needs arising from the national monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal targets. The strategy for meeting the growing demand for technical support will develop around two main pillars:

- Strengthening of a UNODC capacity-building programme through dedicated resources to enable development and management of a full-fledged capacity-building programme at global level
- Strengthening of partnerships with national and regional institutions and the building of regional centres of excellence following the successful UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence model in Mexico.

18. A coordinated and comprehensive global capacity-building programme in support of countries in producing data on crime, violence, organized crime (including trafficking in persons and trafficking of firearms), wildlife trafficking, illicit financial flows, access to justice and corruption is needed to implement the statistical standards mentioned in the previous section, to enhance skills needed to conduct victimization surveys and to produce data for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring. This programme will promote and conduct capacity-building activities at the regional and national levels, strengthen partnerships between UNODC and other regional and international entities particularly in the area of Goal monitoring, promote and raise funding for victimization and corruption survey programmes, undertake quality assessments of national statistical systems on crime and criminal justice, develop and ensure quality of training curricula on crime and criminal justice statistics, and promote coordination among, and provide support for, the regional centres of excellence. The programme will be developed by UNODC, which will endeavour to raise the resources necessary to launch and implement it, in partnership with relevant regional and international agencies.

19. The model based on centres of excellence will be pursued at regional level. Building on the successful experience of the INEGI-UNODC Centre of Excellence – which, as reported in a recent independent evaluation, has become a veritable resource hub for statistical activities on crime and criminal justice in Latin America and the Caribbean – a new centre of excellence will be launched for Asia and the Pacific in 2019 in partnership with Statistics Korea (KOSTAT). The KOSTAT-UNODC Centre of Excellence for Statistics on Crime and Criminal Justice in Asia and the Pacific will be located at KOSTAT, (Daejeon, Republic of Korea). The task of the KOSTAT-UNODC Centre of Excellence will be to provide and organize technical assistance and training activities designed to support countries in the region in improving statistical methodologies and technical capabilities with respect to the production, collection, analysis and dissemination of crime and criminal justice data as the basis for evidence-based strategies and policies for achieving related Sustainable Development Goal goals and targets.

20. The development and implementation of regional capacity-building in Africa should also be supported by the creation of a regional centre of excellence in crime and criminal justice statistics. A dedicated proposal will be developed to this purpose, and efforts will be made, in partnership with national and regional entities such as the African Union and the African Development Bank, to ensure the availability of the necessary resources.

21. While these mid- to long-term plans are being developed, capacity-building activities will continue, pursuant to available resources, which will focus on strengthening the global network of national focal points for the United Nations Surveys, implementation of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes with a focus on producing gender-sensitive crime and criminal justice statistics, support for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring and localization of crime and criminal justice-related Goal indicators, design and conduct of victimization and corruption sample surveys, implementation of multiple systems estimation for trafficking in persons, support for development of statistical systems designed to measure organized crime, training for development and consolidation of

national statistical systems for trafficking of firearms, improvement of statistical systems on smuggling of migrants, testing and implementation of a methodology for estimating illicit financial flows related to illicit markets and corruption- and theft-related crime, and quality assessment of national statistical systems. While capacity-building will encompass the core activities of the centres of excellence in Mexico City and Daejeon, the centres will also contribute to the development of global standards.

22. Capacity-building activities will be delivered through traditional methods (face-to-face and on-the-job training) and the use of new technology. For example, an app will be developed to facilitate the understanding and use of ICCS, and e-learning tools will continue to support the training on victimization surveys of dedicated staff in national statistical offices and relevant government departments.

Table 4

Updated road map: summary of capacity-building activities

<i>Activities to be implemented with existing resources</i>			<i>Planned activities needing additional resources</i>		
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
Develop capacity-building programme at global level	UNODC	2019	Implement capacity-building programme at global level	UNODC	2020-2022
Deliver selected capacity-building activities on ICCS implementation, victimization and corruption surveys, reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicators	UNODC	On-going			
UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence delivers selected technical assistance activities to countries of Latin America and the Caribbean	UNODC UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence	On-going	Provide direct support to countries (upon request) for developing and implementing victimization and corruption surveys and improve administrative data in Latin America and the Caribbean	UNODC UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence	2019-2022
UNODC-KOSTAT Centre of Excellence is established and starts implementing its work programme	UNODC KOSTAT	2019	Provide direct support to countries (upon request) for developing and implementing victimization and corruption surveys and improve administrative data in the Asia and the Pacific region	UNODC UNODC-KOSTAT Centre of Excellence	2019-2022
Victimization surveys: promote the implementation of surveys and the use of the e-learning platform	UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence	On-going	Training on use of data-collection tools (administrative data and victimization surveys)	UNODC UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence	2019-2020

<i>Activities to be implemented with existing resources</i>			<i>Planned activities needing additional resources</i>		
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
			Conduct technical assessments of the national statistical system with respect to producing and disseminating high-quality data on crime and criminal justice	UNODC UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence	2019–2021
			Training on the implementation of ICCS (including development of a ICCS guidance app)	UNODC UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence	2019–2022
			Technical assistance activities on the measurement of various Sustainable Development Goal indicators (illicit financial flows, firearms, traffic in persons) and the production of other statistical indicators (on smuggling of migrants, organized crime)	UNODC UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence	2019–2022
			Regional centre of excellence: promote the creation of a regional centre of excellence in Africa Provide direct support to countries (upon request) for developing and implementing victimization and corruption surveys and improve administrative data in Africa	UNODC Regional organizations	2019–2022
			Corruption: support countries in developing capacity to measure and report on bribery and other forms of corruption	UNODC UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence European Union	2019–2022

C. International data collection and analysis

23. UNODC global data-collection activities on crime and criminal justice have expanded over the last few years in response to new mandates stemming from Sustainable Development Goal global monitoring and established by the General Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies (table 5). In response to these new

mandates, UNODC has continued to work with other regional and international organizations to minimize the reporting burden on countries as much as possible. A review of the United Nations Surveys, the mechanism used by UNODC to collect data on crime and criminal justice from Member States, was finalized in 2017 with the inclusion of data needed to report on relevant Goal targets. The overall burden, in terms of data points, expanded only moderately, thanks in part to the use of a modular approach.⁸ In addition to the review of the United Nations Surveys, UNODC also conducts ongoing data collection on trafficking in persons which feeds into the production of the biennial report on patterns and flows of trafficking in persons, as requested in paragraph 60 of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.⁹ In response to the call made by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in its resolution 8/3¹⁰ as well as to the need to collect national data for Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.4.2, a new data-collection system on illicit firearms trafficking was launched by UNODC in 2018 in collaboration with the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. As regards wildlife crime, UNODC has consolidated a database on seizures based on the reporting of Member States to the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This database allows UNODC to analyse patterns and flows of wildlife trafficking and produce a biennial *World Wildlife Crime Report* of which the General Assembly took note in its resolution 71/326 of 11 September 2017. In paragraph 38 of its resolution 73/186 of 17 December 2018, entitled "Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity", the Assembly requested Member States to report data on smuggling of migrants to UNODC. With adequate resources, UNODC plans to develop a new data-collection system in this area in response to that mandate.

24. In the next few years, UNODC envisages the streamlining of data-collection activities through the consideration of synergies among national focal points, data-collection channels and regional partners (such as Eurostat in Europe and the Organization of American States in the Americas). Due consideration will also be given to ensuring smooth national reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicators. The final goal is to simplify communication with national authorities and to ensure national ownership of the data reported at global level while improving both the coverage and the quality of collected data.

25. The production of analytical reports on crime is an important output with regard to increasing knowledge of crime trends and patterns. Global reports that are regularly produced by UNODC include:

- *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* (2018; next issue, 2020)
- *Global Study on Homicide* (early 2019)
- *Global Study on Firearms Trafficking* (second half of 2019)
- *Global Report on Wildlife Crime* (2019)
- *Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants* (2018)

To meet an increasing need for information on penitentiary conditions, UNODC plans to produce a new global report on prisons and prisoners, which will be based on the comprehensive data provided by Member States through the United Nations Surveys and other sources.

⁸ Core data are collected every year, while other data are collected on a rotating basis.

⁹ General Assembly resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010, annex.

¹⁰ See CTOC/COP/2016/15.

Table 5

Updated road map: summary of activities on data collection and analysis

Activities to be implemented with existing resources			Planned activities needing additional resources		
Activity	Actors	Timeline	Activity	Actors	Timeline
2. maintain regular data collection on crime and criminal justice, including requirements of Sustainable Development Goal-related reporting	UNODC	2019–2022			
Crime and criminal justice data reporting systems: strengthen national focal points for the United Nations Surveys	UNODC Eurostat Organization of American States (OAS)	Ongoing			
			Illicit firearms trafficking: implement data collection (through the Illicit Arms Flows questionnaire)	UNODC UNODA	2019–2022
Wildlife crime: maintain and extend the World Wildlife Seizures (WorldWISE) database	UNODC Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) secretariat	2019–2020	Wildlife crime: maintain and extend the WISE database	UNODC CITES secretariat	2021–2022
Trafficking in persons: maintain regular data collection and dissemination	UNODC	Ongoing			
Global report on trafficking in persons: produce an analysis of the extent of and trends in trafficking in persons at global level	UNODC	2020–2022			
<i>Global Study on Homicide</i> : produce an analysis of homicide levels and trends at global level	UNODC	2019	<i>Global Study on Homicide</i> : produce an analysis of homicide levels and trends at global level	UNODC	2021 or 2022
<i>Global Study on Firearms Trafficking</i> : produce an analysis of patterns and trends in firearms trafficking	UNODC	2019	<i>Global Study on Firearms Trafficking</i> : produce an analysis of patterns and trends in firearms trafficking	UNODC	2021 or 2022
<i>Global Report on Wildlife Crime</i> : produce a global report on wildlife crime at global level	UNODC	2019	<i>Global Report on Wildlife Crime</i> : produce a global report on wildlife crime at global level	UNODC	2021 or 2022

<i>Activities to be implemented with existing resources</i>			<i>Planned activities needing additional resources</i>		
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
			Smuggling of migrants: undertake new data collection among Member States	UNODC	2020–2021
			<i>Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants</i> : produce a new global study on smuggling of migrants	UNODC	2021
			Global report on prisons and prisoners: produce global study on stocks and flows and status of prisoners worldwide	UNODC	2021
Reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals: contribute to progress report of the Secretary-General on the Goals	UNODC inter-agency mechanism	Ongoing			
Crime and criminal justice data dissemination: develop and implement a comprehensive dissemination strategy, including for reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals	UNODC	2019–2020			

D. Strengthening the international framework for the implementation of the road map

26. A key factor in the promotion of most road map-related activities has been the close collaboration and regular coordination with Member States (table 6). To further this collaboration, UNODC has established and strengthened the network of focal points for the United Nations Surveys on Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems and the Technical Advisory Group on ICCS. UNODC is currently building a similar network of focal points for data collection on firearms. Collaboration with national focal points ensures direct feedback on ongoing activities, elicits support for priority areas and provides a reservoir of expertise for consultations on technical issues. The organization of the global meetings of focal points for the United Nations Surveys and the global meeting of members of the ICCS Technical Advisory Group in 2016 and 2018 has been instrumental in promoting this network and the meetings will therefore be maintained biennially.

27. The establishment of an advisory group is aimed at enabling the attainment of broader partnerships in promoting the implementation of the road map. In this regard, the advisory group will serve the purpose of better coordinating international statistical programmes in the areas of crime and criminal justice, further promoting and increasing the visibility of the road map and providing expert advice on planned activities. Members of the advisory group will include representatives of national

agencies active in producing and/or using statistics on crime and criminal justice, relevant international and regional entities and international experts. Membership of the advisory group will reflect geographical and gender balance.

28. The biennial International Conference on Governance, Crime and Justice Statistics has become a cornerstone of discussion within the international community on the many roles that statistics can play in supporting evidence-based policymaking within the area of crime prevention, access to justice and rule of law. The fourth International Conference on Governance, Crime and Justice Statistics, which was held in Lima from 6 to 8 June 2018, was co-organized by the Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática (INEI) of Peru, INEGI the UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence and UNODC. The Conference reached a wide audience of policymakers, practitioners, official statisticians, academics and non-governmental organizations. The fifth Conference will be held in 2020 at a location to be determined.

29. The creation and maintenance of regional networks and events are also instrumental in fostering exchange of practices, creating partnerships and raising visibility of statistical activities in the areas of crime, violence, organized crime and related trafficking, illicit financial flows, access to justice and corruption. In the Asia-Pacific region, regional meetings were held in 2014 and 2016, and a third meeting will be organized in 2019. In the Americas, the UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence has continued to provide support to the Crime Statistics Group of the Statistical Conference of the Americas within the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) which promotes exchange of best practices and international standards at the regional level. The possibility of conducting similar initiatives in Africa will be promoted in collaboration with the African Union and other regional partners. In Europe, UNODC is actively engaged with Eurostat and the European Commission in maintaining regional networks of experts.

30. In order to ensure a close link and dialogue with member States, UNODC will continue the practice of regular reporting on the implementation of the road map to the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. These forums provide Member States with the opportunity to guide and advise on the implementation of the road map.

Table 6
Updated road map: summary of activities aimed at strengthening the international framework for its implementation

Activities to be implemented with existing resources			Planned activities needing additional resources		
International implementation framework					
Activity	Actors	Timeline	Activity	Actors	Timeline
Establish advisory group on the road map	UNODC	2019	Meetings of advisory group on the road map	UNODC	2019
	UNODC-INEGI			UNODC-INEGI	2020
	Centre of Excellence			Centre of Excellence	2021
	KOSTAT-UNODC			KOSTAT-UNODC	2022
	Centre of Excellence			Centre of Excellence	
	International partners			International partners	
Meeting of the focal points for the United Nations Surveys: organize biennial meetings	UNODC	2020	International conference: organize the biennial global conference on crime statistics	UNODC	2020
	Eurostat	2022		UNODC-INEGI	2022
	OAS			Centre of Excellence	
	Member States				

Activities to be implemented with existing resources			Planned activities needing additional resources		
International implementation framework					
Activity	Actors	Timeline	Activity	Actors	Timeline
ICCS Technical Advisory Group: organize biennial meetings	UNODC	2020 2022			
			Regional meeting on crime and criminal justice statistics in the Asia-Pacific region	UNODC KOSTAT-UNODC Centre of Excellence Regional partners	2019 2021
			Regional meeting on crime and criminal justice statistics in Africa	UNODC African Union Regional partners	2020 2022
Regular reporting to inter-governmental bodies: Statistical Commission and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	UNODC	2022			

IV. Points for discussion:

31. The Statistical Commission may wish to:

(a) Acknowledge with appreciation the progress made in implementing the road map with a view to the production of improved statistical data on crime and criminal justice at national and international levels;

(b) Welcome the finalization of the *Manual on Corruption Surveys* produced by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence and the United Nations Development Programme as a well-designed and comprehensive tool for promoting the production of high-quality statistical information on bribery and other forms of corruption and may also wish to reflect upon whether corruption statistics require a dedicated review by the Statistical Commission;

(c) Recommend the implementation of the proposed road map-related activities for the period 2019–2022 and indicate priority areas of work;

(d) Invite national statistical offices to lead the assessment of the implementation of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes at country level according to guidelines developed by the Technical Advisory Group on the Classification;

(e) Request the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to establish an advisory group on road map implementation to strengthen coordination and effectiveness of statistical activities on crime and criminal justice, including those related to strengthening national data used in reporting on Sustainable Development Goal targets in the areas of crime, violence, trafficking, access to justice and corruption;

(f) Invite the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to develop a global programme on capacity-building to strengthen national capacities for producing data on crime, violence, trafficking, access to justice and corruption;

(g) Encourage Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary funds to enhance the ability of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to implement the activities envisaged in the road map;

(h) Invite the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime-Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) Centre of Excellence to organize the fifth International Conference on Governance, Crime and Justice Statistics in 2020;

(i) Request that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in consultation with all relevant international and regional organizations, report back to the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on the progress achieved in implementing the road map.

Annex

Road map-related activities implemented during the period 2015–2018

1. In the four years since the issuance of the previous report on the implementation of the road map (E/CN.3/2015/8), major progress has been made towards accomplishing the objectives under all three pillars of the workplan: development of methodological tools, capacity-building, and international data collection and analysis.

Methodological tools

2. In 2018, the *Manual on Corruption Surveys: Methodological Guidelines on the Measurement of Bribery and Other Forms of Corruption through Sample Surveys* was published to provide guidance on conducting population and business surveys for the measurement of bribery and other forms of corruption, including guidance on producing Sustainable Development Goal indicators 16.5.1 and 16.5.2. The two-year process for developing the Manual – which was led by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in close cooperation with the UNODC-National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) Centre of Excellence and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – benefited from the contribution of a task force of experts representing national statistical offices, anti-corruption bodies, international agencies, academia, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. The Manual was reviewed by members of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators.

3. Following the finalization and endorsement (see E/2015/24, chap. I.C, decision 46/103, para. (a)) of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) in 2015, the translation, dissemination and development of methodological tools for its implementation have been a priority. Currently, work is ongoing on the production of a comprehensive and user-friendly manual on ICCS implementation, which will support countries in their national efforts towards adopting and implementing the Classification, including through the mapping of existing national data into the ICCS framework.

4. In the area of monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, UNODC has contributed to the development of Goal indicators in the areas of crime and violence, organized crime and illicit trafficking, access to justice, the rule of law and corruption.

5. One example in this regard is the methodological work on the measurement of total numbers of victims of trafficking in persons (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.2.2), both detected and undetected, through the multiple systems estimation (MSE) method. The methodology was tested in pilot studies conducted in Ireland, the Netherlands, Serbia and Romania, which produced estimates of the total number of victims of trafficking in persons in those countries.¹

6. In the area of illicit trafficking of firearms, pilot data collection was conducted in 2017, in partnership with the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. This was accompanied by a series of regional workshops convened to present data sources, and the proposed approach to extracting the data needed for the computation of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.4.2. The proposed methodology for this Goal indicator was recently presented to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, which acknowledged its validity and reclassified the indicator from tier III to II.

¹ Research briefs, available at <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/glotip.html>.

7. The challenging task of developing a solid methodological approach to estimating illicit financial flows (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.4.1) has been oriented, first, towards development of a comprehensive statistical framework for measuring the various types of illicit financial flows and will focus eventually on the statistical methodology needed to for such measurement. The methodological work is being conducted jointly with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (co-custodian of the Goal indicator) and the approach will be piloted in volunteer countries in Latin America, namely, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Peru.

8. As regards monitoring of several Sustainable Development Goal indicators based on sample surveys, one promising avenue for future data generation is the elaboration of short survey modules which can be used as "rider surveys" for other population surveys. One example is the brief module on crime, violence and safety that has been developed jointly with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for use in the ongoing Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) by countries electing to use the module in their national surveys. Further, work undertaken jointly with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has begun development of a module for measuring survey-based indicators for Goal 16.

Capacity-building and technical assistance

9. Since 2015, UNODC has significantly widened its technical assistance and capacity-building activities. Efforts have focused on enhancing the technical capacity of countries to produce and disseminate comprehensive data on crime and criminal justice both from administrative sources and from crime victimization surveys according to international standards.

10. After the endorsement of ICCS in 2015 and its translation and widespread dissemination through awareness raising activities in 2015 and 2016, requests from Member States for advice and assistance multiplied. Information brochures, background documents and briefing notes on ICCS implementation and methodological tools (covering, e.g., measurement of violence against women and other gender issues through ICCS lenses; unlawful killing in conflict situations; and a road map for the implementation of the Classification in national contexts) were produced and disseminated.² A virtual platform on ICCS for national counterparts working on its implementation was established and used for discussion based on the secure exchange of information.

11. A Technical Advisory Group on the Classification has been established to provide regular advice to UNODC as custodian of the Classification and to ensure its maintenance. The first global meeting of the Technical Advisory Group, held in Vienna on 12 and 13 May 2016, was attended by 65 representatives from over 45 countries and nine experts from international organizations who discussed a workplan of activities to support ICCS implementation, including the development of an implementation manual. The second global meeting of the Group, held in Lima on 7 and 8 June 2018, was attended by 70 participants from 32 countries and seven international organizations, who reviewed the draft manual and discussed progress in, and challenges of, ICCS implementation in countries worldwide.

12. In parallel with the development of tools, manuals and guidelines, UNODC, in cooperation with the UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence, rolled out a series of training workshops on the Classification and the improvement of administrative data

² All documents are available at <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/statistics/ices.html>.

on crime and criminal justice at the regional level, (in Daejeon, Republic of Korea, for the Asia-Pacific region; in Tashkent, for Central Asia; in Budva, Montenegro, for the western Balkans and in Bridgetown, for the Caribbean; and at the national level, in Argentina, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan and Myanmar. Within the framework of a Development Account project, UNODC is providing support to Kenya and Uganda for their participation in a comprehensive project on assessing and improving administrative crime data and producing data for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring.

13. Activities at national and regional levels were also conducted in support of countries in the monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal targets in the areas under the UNODC mandate. Regional meetings were held for countries of Latin America (in Mexico City, 2017), for countries in the Pacific region (in Fiji, 2017) and for countries of Central Asia (in Tashkent, 2018). Such meetings offered valuable opportunities to present data and methodologies for Sustainable Development Goal indicators, to support countries in the process of Goal localization and to showcase the ways in which data can be used to develop and monitor better policies.

14. The UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence has provided technical assistance in the design and conduct of crime victimization surveys. Following the elaboration of the Latin American and the Caribbean Crime Victimization Survey Initiative in the period 2013–2015 as a tool for standardizing survey methodology for crime victimization surveys,³ several countries of the region received direct support in carrying out such surveys. An online course training curriculum on victimization surveys was also developed and implemented several times (six times in Spanish and, in 2018, for the first time in English).

15. During the period 2015–2017, UNODC supported the National Bureau of Statistics of Nigeria in conducting a large-scale survey on corruption, which resulted in an analytical report on the experience of bribery and other topics related to corruption and the State response to it.⁴ Preparatory activities are ongoing with respect to supporting the Bureau in its conduct of a follow-up corruption survey in 2019.

16. Over the past few years, an international conference on governance, crime and justice statistics has been organized biennially by INEGI, UNODC and the UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence. This has become a reference event at which practitioners, statisticians, researchers and policymakers can discuss new methodologies and best practices on statistics and measurement of crime, victimization and criminal justice and on the use of such data for better policymaking. The first International Conference on Governance, Crime and Justice Statistics was held in Aguascalientes, Mexico, in May 2012; the second in Mexico City on 18 June 2014; and the third in Mérida, Mexico, from 7 to 10 June 2016. The fourth, which was jointly organized by INEGI, UNODC, the UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence and the Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática (INEI) of Peru, was held in Lima from 6 to 8 June 2018.

International data collection and analysis

17. In the period 2016–2018, the UNODC programme of global data collection through the United Nations Surveys on Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal

³ See the first report of UNODC and INEGI (E/CN.3/2015/8) on the activities of UNODC under the road map.

⁴ UNODC and National Bureau of Statistics (Nigeria), *Corruption in Nigeria: Bribery – Public Experience and Response* (Vienna, July 2017).

Justice Systems⁵ was reviewed and updated. In 2016–2017, a comprehensive review process involving global consultations with experts and Member States was carried out. This resulted in a substantial revision of the annually applied Survey instrument. The revised data-collection instrument, which was launched in October 2017, reflects new methodological requirements derived from the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) as well as new data requirements for the monitoring of relevant indicators under Sustainable Development Goal 16 and other Goals targets for which UNODC is the custodian.

18. Further efforts have also been made to improve the availability and quality of the data collected and to increase the global coverage of Survey responses through a strengthening of the network of national focal points⁶ and drawing on synergies with regional organizations. In this context, the partnerships with the Organization of American States (OAS) for managing the Surveys in the Americas, and the joint collection of Survey data by UNODC and Eurostat for countries in Europe, markedly increased the coverage and quality of the data obtained from countries in those regions. Similar cooperation arrangements in other regions are actively being sought.

19. Two global meetings of focal points for the United Nations Surveys on Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems were organized back to back with the two global meetings of the ICCS Technical Advisory Group. The first global meeting of focal points was held, as mentioned above, in Vienna in May 2016 and provided guidance on and the impetus for the subsequent review of the Survey instrument. The second meeting of focal points – which, as also mentioned above, was held in Lima in June 2018 – reviewed the experience of countries in utilizing the revised United Nations Surveys.

20. As the Surveys are also the main source of detailed disaggregated data on intentional homicide at the global level, they are therefore the basis for the UNODC homicide statistics database, a comprehensive global repository of data on intentional homicide. Drawing on the Surveys and additional multilateral and national sources, this database was so constructed as to facilitate the global analysis needed for the drafting of the first two issues of the *Global Study on Homicide* (2011 and 2013). In 2018, UNODC expanded data collection to widen its coverage, lengthen historical time-series and include additional indicators in preparation for the next *Global Study on Homicide*, which will be published in early 2019.⁷

21. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010, UNODC has established regular data-collection process on trafficking in persons. The repository of data is the basis for the production of the biennial *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*. The focus of the reports in this series is on patterns, trends and flows of trafficking in persons at the global, regional and national levels. The latest *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, which was published in 2018 and covers the period 2014–2016, includes data on the (approximately) 25,000 victims detected per year. In addition, the *Report* includes a special chapter on trafficking in persons in conflict situations. For the 2018 edition, data collection achieved a good level of country coverage (more than 140 countries), thus ensuring a comprehensive description of regional and global patterns.

⁵ See <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/statistics/crime/cts-data-collection.html>. Data are collected annually from Member States, disseminated for public use on the UNODC website and used for analytical publications.

⁶ By late 2018, over 140 countries had appointed a national focal point for the United Nations Surveys.

⁷ The latest *Global Study on Homicide* draws on a much-expanded set of data, which enables new and improved estimation methods for regional and global trends of intentional homicide to be applied.

22. The *Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants*, which was launched in June 2018, made use of secondary data, including proxy variables such as numbers of detected irregular migrants and clandestine entries recorded at border, as well as applications for asylum. These indicators, in combination with qualitative information, were used to estimate the flows of smuggling of migrants over a number of selected routes.

23. UNODC has expanded its research on a form of crime that came into focus over the past decade, namely, wildlife crime, and in this regard has established the global World Wildlife Seizures database (World WISE-1).^{*} The first global *World Wildlife Crime Report* (2016), which focused on illicit trafficking of specific protected species of wild fauna and flora, provided a broad assessment of the nature and extent of the problem at the global level. A second report, which is under development and scheduled for publication during 2019, makes use of an improved and upgraded global World Wildlife Seizures database (WISE-2).

24. In 2018, an instrument for collection of data on illicit arms flows, i.e., the Illicit Arms Flows questionnaire, was launched. This questionnaire collects information on firearms seizures, trafficking routes, the criminal justice response to firearms trafficking, tracing results and illicit firearms prices, among other issues. The *Global Study on Firearms Trafficking*, to be published during 2019, will be based on this approach to data collection.

^{*} While this database is based on seizures data submitted by Member States in their biennial reporting to the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, it also incorporates inputs from a variety of official reporting mechanisms, including that of the World Customs Organization.